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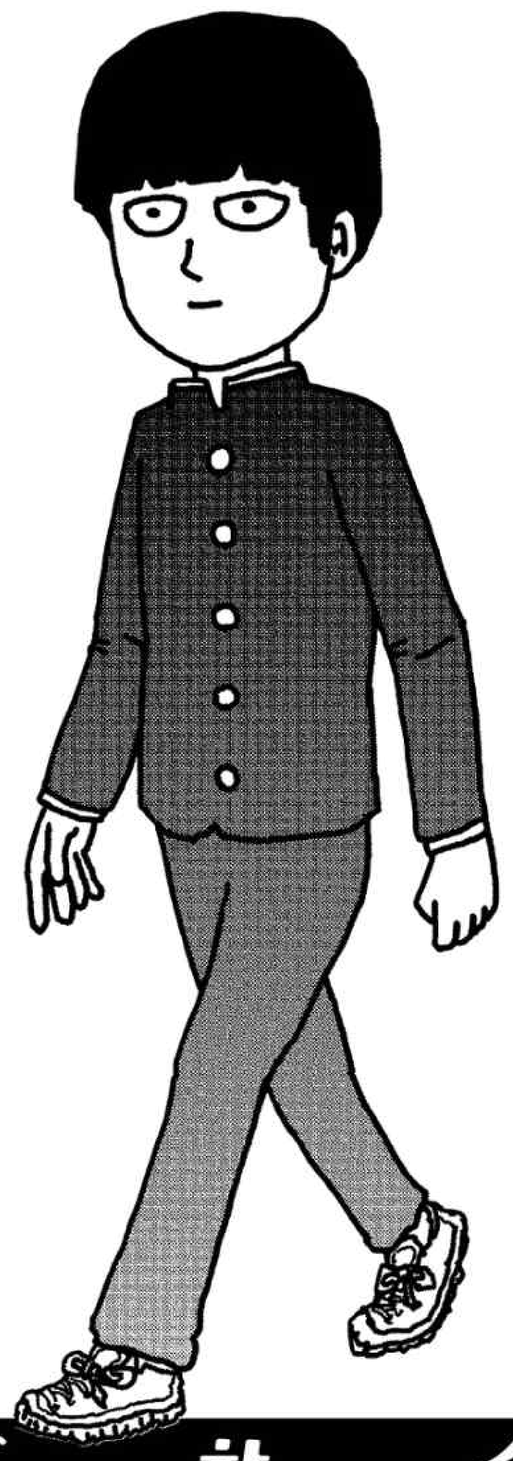
ONE

PRESENTS



ONE
PRESENTS

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VOLUME 1

DARK HORSE MANGA

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MOB PSYCHO 100 VOLUME 1

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SINCE AGES PAST, PEOPLE HAVE BECOME HELPLESS WITH FEAR AT THESE WEIRD ENCOUNTERS... FROZEN WITHIN THE SHADOWS OF TERROR!!

STRANGE PHENOM-ENA... WHICH SCIENCE HAS YET TO EXPLAIN... STILL EXIST THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD!!

THOSE HEROES WHOM PEOPLE CALL...

YET THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THERE HAVE BEEN THOSE WHO USED OCCULT POWERS FOR GOOD RATHER THAN EVIL...WHO BATTLED WITHOUT REST...WHO SHONE A BEAM OF LIGHT INTO THIS DARKNESS ...!

...THE "SPIRIT MEDIUMS"!!!

CHAPTER 1: SELF-STYLED PSYCHIC, ARATAKA REIGEN

Yes, yes.

FINE, FINE.

YOU'VE SAVED ME!!

NOW, ABOUT MY FEE...

EVERYONE ELSE I ASKED TURNED ME DOWN! I WAS IN SUCH A FIX!!

REALLY ...?! OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THE CLIENT: HANAKO

PLAN ?!?

A... TRIAL 2000 YEN
B... SERIOUS 5000 YEN
C... FULL ON 12000 YEN
VALUE PACK (WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS ONLY)

THE PRICE VARIES ACCORDING TO THE EXORCISM PLAN YOU CHOOSE. WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER?

...IS THAT TRUE?

HUH?

YES. SPIRITS ARE A BIT LIKE CO_2 EMISSIONS.

YES. THEY'RE A PERSISTENT THREAT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT-- SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO REMOVE THEM COMPLETELY.

THE SIMPLE "A" PLAN GIVES YOU 20%, THE SERIOUS "B" PLAN GIVES YOU 50%, AND THE FULL ON "C" PLAN GIVES YOU A **99% GUARANTEED REDUCTION** IN SPIRITS!

REDUCTION ?!?

ズイッ
ZOOM!
HOLD ON A MINUTE !!
OH, THANK YOU, REIGEN-SENSEI ...!!
IF THEY APPEAR AGAIN AFTER-WARDS, I'LL TAKE ON THE JOB...FOR TWENTY PERCENT OFF...!!
BUT YOU NEED NOT WOR-RY.
WHO ARE YOU? A FRIEND OF HANAKO'S...?
...HM?
WAVE WAVE ふ、ふ ふ、ふ
WELL, YES! I QUITE AGREE.
FISHY, YOU SAY...?
ドン
thoom!
I'VE BEEN LISTEN-ING, AND IT ALL SMELLS FISHY TO ME...
...HA-NAKO, IT'S BEST YOU RECON-SIDER THIS!
CLIENT'S LOVER: TARO
HER, I BE-LIEVE! I'M SAYING I DON'T TRUST YOU!
snort!
I MEAN, JUST LISTEN TO HER STORY. A GHOST, GIVING HER NIGHT-MARES? SOUNDS RIDICU-LOUS.

...I EXPECT HANAKO'S FACE WILL RETURN TO NORMAL.

LET ME PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE... TARO, WAS IT...? ONCE I'VE EXORCISED THIS SPIRIT...

THAT *IS* HER NORMAL FACE...!!

YES! I'M SO SCARED AND CREEPED OUT...**OH! REIGEN-SENSEI!! THAT'S THE BUILDING!**

I SEE...SO YOU ENTERED AN ABANDONED BUILDING ON A DARE TO TEST YOUR COURAGE...AND SINCE THEN YOU'VE HAD NIGHTMARES ABOUT IT EVERY NIGHT.

ゴゴゴ rrrrumble

I CAN SENSE AN INCRED-IBLE SPIRITUAL FORCE ...!

THE BIGGEST ONE I'VE FELT IN A WHILE... *YES!* FROM ***THIS*** BUILDING ...!

ズ rrrrhh

ズ rrrrhh

ズズズ rrrrhh rrrrhh rrrrhh

NO, I DIDN'T! YES, I DID! OH! *THAT* BUILDING, TOO? SORRY, SPIRIT ENERGY'S KINDA LIKE THE HOT SUN! GHOST GLARE, WE CALL IT! MAKES IT HARD TO SEE SOMETIMES!

HOW COME YOU THOUGHT IT WAS THE OTHER PLACE ...?

ズ stare

イッ

?!

...

OH, ACTU-ALLY, IT'S THIS BUILD-ING, SEN-SEI.

THE MAN WHO JUST PASSED YOU, MR. TARO...

slide

?!?

...WAS AN EVIL SPIRIT, TOO! THAT WAS CLOSE!

OH, NO...!

NAH... THERE CAN'T BE THAT MANY OF 'EM...

GOSH! IS THAT SO?

THIS WORLD IS SO LOUSY WITH EVIL SPIRITS, YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH IS WHICH ANYMORE.

WHAT ARE YOU... EIGHT?!?

clip スタ clop スタ

HE IS KNOWN... AS THE ASS-CHIN BOOGEYMAN...!

lub-dup lub-dup

HUH...?!

jo-t!

W-WHAT KIND OF EVIL SPIRIT...?

...AHEM. SO. THIS ABANDONED BUILDING, HUH...?

WELL, THEN. RIGHT! SHALL WE GO...?

WHA...? HE'S THE ONE BEING RUDE!

EVEN IF THAT CHIN DOES LOOK LIKE AN ASS!

TARO! AREN'T YOU BEING RUDE TO REIGEN-SENSEI...?

WHAT A JERK...

HATERS GONNA HATE, RIGHT?

THERE, THERE, MISS HANAKO.

GOD, YOU'LL BE-LIEVE ANY-THING.

...THEY SAY A MAN HERE LONG AGO JUMPED IN FRIGHT AT A COCKROACH. SO HIGH, HIS HEAD WENT THROUGH THE CEILING. NOW HIS GHOST HAUNTS THE PLACE...

Pound ドキン...

Pound ドキン...

?

WHAT THE...? I CAN HEAR HIS HEART BEAT! HE LOOKS SO INTENSE... COULD HE BE FOR REAL...?

Shudder

...!!

I SEE...SO... THAT'S... THE KIND OF PLACE THIS IS...

Shudder

...FOR THE LEGEND IS TRUE! THIS PLACE DOES HAVE ROACHES ...!

トゥンプ!

ドゥ

ドゥ

トゥンプ!

...NOT STAY HERE TOO LONG.

トゥ thump

トゥ thump

トゥ thump

WE'D BEST ...

HE'S A TOTAL FRAUD ...!

THIS GUY IS AS PSYCHIC AS A BAG OF ROCKS ...!

twitch

tremble

EH ?

...YES!... EVEN I AM AFRAID ...

I SEE TERRI-FYING THINGS ON THE WALLS... ON THE FLOOR !

おAAA

AAA

AAA

A

...OR, INSTEAD OF THAT WEAK HAUNTING CRAP, HOW 'BOUT I JUST SMASH *YOUR* HEADS THROUGH THE CEILING, TOO...?!

EVIL SPIRIT: CEILING CRASHER

bam!

...A G-G-GHOST...!!

Y-YOU WERE RIGHT, HANAKO! THERE *IS* A GHOST HERE!

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A ***REAL*** GHOST ...

JUST AS I ANTICI-PATED! A GHOST!

thwassh

EEEEEK! HE'S THE ONE THAT KEEPS HEAD-BUTTING ME IN MY DREEEE-AMS!!

thwashh!

SALT

SPLASH!!!

thwashh!

thwashh!

FEROCIOUS TOSSING OF TABLE SALT: REIGEN'S SIGNATURE MOVE

...I DIDN'T ACTU-ALLY KNOW THAT.

UM ...

SEE, THEY USE PURI-FIED SALT.

YOU'RE NOT A REAL SPIRIT MEDIUM, ARE YOU?

LOOK, MAN. THIS IS FROM THE SUPER-MAR-KET.

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE. TIME TO CALL IN THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!

プルルル

HIS NAME IS SHIGEO KAGEYAMA, KNOWN AS "MOB." NOT THE VIOLENT KIND... AS IN, JUST SOMEONE WHO'S PART OF THE CROWD. AN UNIMPORTANT CHARACTER. IN THE BACKGROUND. MOB IS ARATAKA REIGEN'S PROTÉGÉ...

...BUT UNLIKE REIGEN, HE'S AN ACTUAL SUPER-HUMAN.

AND HE'S THE PRO-TAGONIST OF THIS STORY, BY THE WAY.

...MASTER REIGEN, I ASKED YOU TO PLEASE NOT CALL ME ON SHORT NOTICE.

LOOK, AT MY LEVEL, I'M SO POWERFUL THAT I COULD END UP MELTING EVERYONE AROUND ME! YOU'RE THE WEAK ONE, SO I NEED YOU FOR SUCH PETTY THREATS...!

W-WHY IS EVERYONE SO CYNICAL ABOUT ME? THE GHOST WAS SO WEAK, I COULD BARELY DETECT IT! TWO BARS AT THE MOST!!

YOU REALLY AREN'T A SPIRIT MEDIUM, ARE YOU...?

WOW, YOU KINDA SAVED THE DAY THERE! WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A GHOST WOULD SHOW UP...

MOB, YOU FOOL! YOU LACK *TRAINING*! YOU HAVE TO LEARN! FROM ME, YOUR MASTER!

IS THAT SO? ALSO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY "MELT"...

...BUT IF YOU MISUSE YOUR POWER, YOU'LL END UP DESTROY-ING YOURSELF, MOB...

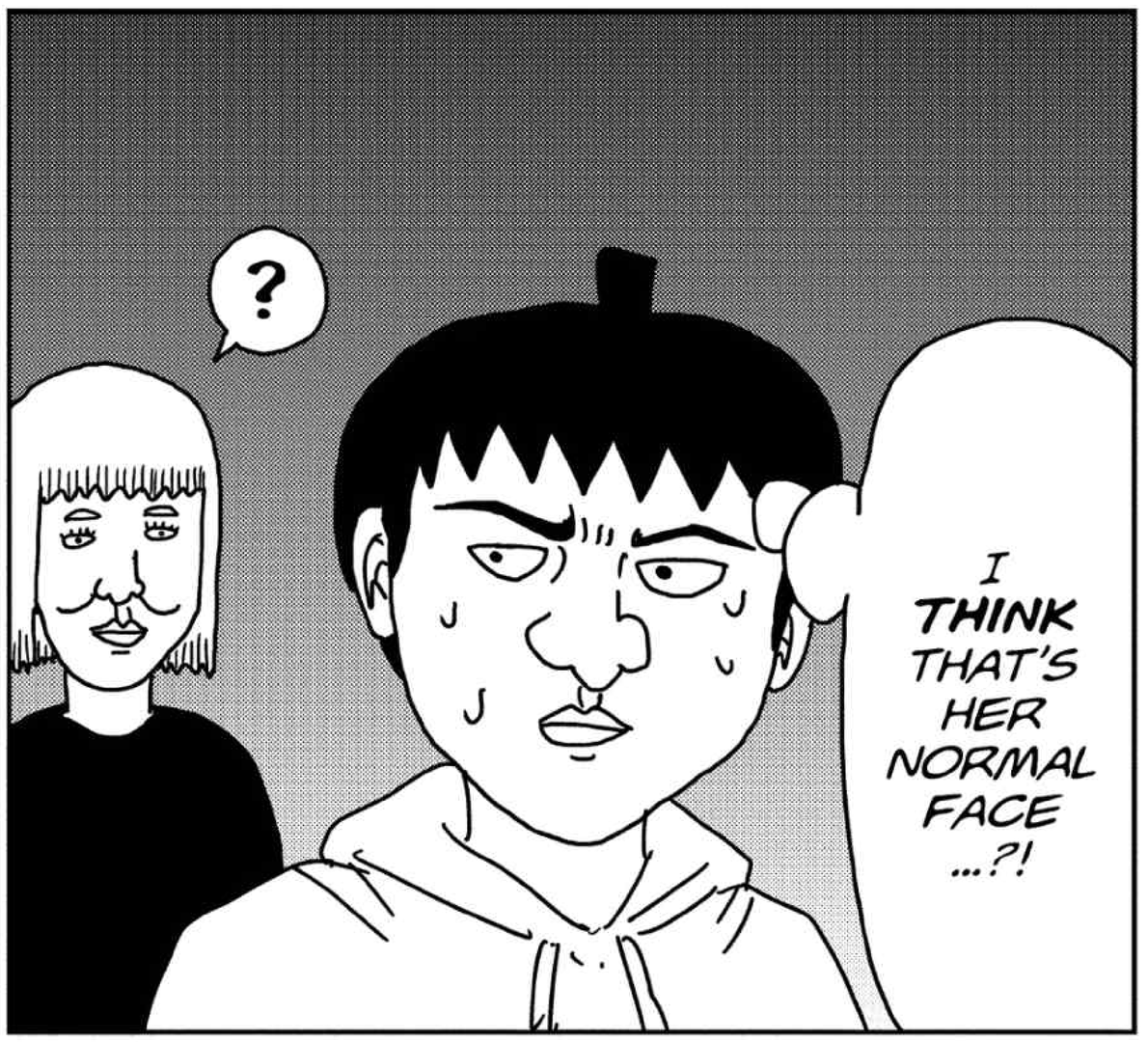
...I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO *KEEP* IT UNDER CONTROL... SO IT DOESN'T GO BERSERK.

PROGRESS TOWARD MOB'S EXPLOSION:

22%

SMALL AS YOUR POWER MAY BE... WHAT A WASTE IF YOU DON'T *USE* IT...!

AND BY USING IT, YOU'LL NOT ONLY HELP OTHER PEOPLE, YOU'LL LEARN TO CONTROL IT. IT'S TWO BIRDS WITH ONE BRICK-BAT...!


?
I THINK THAT'S HER NORMAL FACE ...?!

8th GRADE... THE MOST EMOTIONALLY SENSITIVE PERIOD OF ONE'S LIFE... YET A TIME THAT'S ALSO CALLED "THE SPRINGTIME OF ONE'S LIFE."

SHIGEO KAGEYAMA, AKA "MOB." 8th GRADE STUDENT.

SOME LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO STUDY.

scritch scritch scritch scritch scritch scritch scritch scritch scritch

I'LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

I'LL MAKE THE TEAM!!

thw

aak!!

SOME HAVE OVERFLOWING VITALITY AND SWEAT IT OUT IN SPORTS.

AFTERNOONS SUCK. LET'S SKIP.

SOME REBEL.

TAKE MY BRO'S BIKE AGAIN...

tinkle tinkle tinkle

SOME HONE THEIR TALENTS.

20 WINS IN A ROW!!

chak chak

SOME PURSUE PERSONAL INTERESTS.

AND...

...SOME FALL IN LOVE, AND KNOW BITTER-SWEET ROMANCE.

HI!

MORN-ING TSU-BOMI!

CHAPTER 2: QUESTIONS IN THE SPRING OF YOUTH

TSUBOMI'S DEFINITELY THE BEST-LOOKING GIRL HERE...

ポケー

duhhhh

AND SO ON.

BUT MOB...

...SUCH IS THE SPRING-TIME OF YOUTH.

AND SO IN THE 8th GRADE ALL THESE THOUGHTS INTER-MINGLE...

YOU'RE CURSED. STUDIES SHOW THAT EVIL SPIRITS ARE THE CAUSE OF 90% OF BACK PAIN.

SHALL I HAVE A LOOK ...?

SO. YOUR SHOUL-DERS FEEL HEAVY ...?

lub-dup lub-dup

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY REASON I'D HAVE A CURSE ON ME...!

HUH? CURSED ...?

lub-dup

lub-dup

lub-dup

Spirits & such

lub-dup

...

NOPE.

lub-dup

lub-dup

PLEASE THINK HARD... HAVE YOU HAD ANY FIGHTS WITH ANYONE IN, SAY, THE PAST SIX MONTHS ...?

VERY *FEW* PEOPLE HAVE NO GRUDGES HELD AGAINST THEM.

WELL, LET'S SAY, ANY TRIFLING DIFFER-ENCES OF OPIN-ION, THEN.

NONE AT ALL.

NO MINOR ARGU-MENTS EITHER.

lub-dup

grin

...BUT SOME-ONE HELD IT AGAINST YOU.

lub-dup

THINK! IT MAY HAVE BEEN A MINOR ARGU-MENT TO YOU...

thbump

ドス

thbump

ドス

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR WORK ...?

I DON'T.

...I SEE.

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE YOU WERE CURSED BY: A.) A CUSTOMER, B.) A SUPERIOR, C.) A SUBORDI-NATE. WORKPLACE ISSUES, I'M SENSING.

AND WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT IT. THEY CURSED YOU!

lub-dup

YOU BAST... I MEAN, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GOOD FORTUNE AND HAPPY HOME LIFE.

...NO, BECAUSE I WON 300 MILLION YEN IN THE LOTTERY AND TREATED HER TO A LUXURY OVERSEAS SHOPPING TRIP.

lub-dup

SHE'S GONE.

YOUR WIFE ...?

DIAGNOSIS FORM

AH. PARDON MY RUDENESS, BUT THAT MAY BE THE REASON... AS I SENSE...THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR *FAMILY* THINKS ILL OF YOU.

BE-CAUSE YOU'RE A DEAD-BEAT, PENNI-LESS MAN...

A-HA...

YES.

"DRIVE-BY" CURSING HAS BEEN A TRAGIC OCCUR-RENCE LATELY.

YOU WERE CURSED AS YOU WALKED ALONG THE STREET.

THE CUL-PRIT... IS A COM-PLETE STRANG-ER.

...BUT IN *THAT* CASE, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT.

...AND WITH MY WIFE GONE, I JUST SPEND ALL MY TIME, UH... SURFING THE NET.

I HAVE FOOD DELIV-ERED...

lub-dup

lub-dup

UM...I HAVEN'T LEFT THE HOUSE SINCE I WON THE LOTTERY.

YES, AN INNOCENT PERSON IS STROLLING IN THE SUNSHINE, ALONG THE AVENUE, AND WITHOUT WARNING...

LISTEN TO YOURSELF. YOU GET SOMETHING WRONG, YOU MOVE TO ANOTHER, GET THAT WRONG, AND KEEP ON GOING...

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ANYWAY...? ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE ME THINK I'M UNDER A CURSE.

カラ rattle

カラ rattle

カラ rattle

TELL ME ABOUT... YOUR NET SURFING HABITS.

...PATIENCE! I'M POSITIVE WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS IF WE JUST KEEP SEARCHING.

カラ rattle

thwokk!

...AND THAT YOU'RE JUST SOME KIND OF HUSTLING CON MAN.

...I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT MY PROBLEM'S JUST STIFF SHOULDERS ...

EHHHHHHHH?!

YOU'VE BEEN HIT BY THE PORN POP-UP CURSE ...!

wham!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF YOUR QUESTION?

IT'S... MOSTLY MESSAGE BOARDS... AND... ADULT SITES... AND STUFF.

NEVER MIND ALL THAT! JUST DON'T MOVE! I'LL LIFT THE CURSE ...!

NO! FORGET IT! NO WAY AM I BE-LIEVING THAT BULL-CRAP STORY ...!

NO MATTER! IT'S NOT JUST MANGA THAT HAVE GONE DIGITAL THESE DAYS! IT'S CURSES TOO!

PEOPLE WHO VISIT SCAMMING ADULT SITES GET CURSES PUT ON THEM, AND THEY DON'T GET LIFTED UNLESS YOU PAY UP!

AAA

WAIT. NO, NO. YOU'RE PROJECTING AGAIN. NOBODY'S SCAMMING ME BUT YOU.

YES! LIKE TOUCHING AN ACCURSED TREASURE, YOU CLICK UPON A DIRTY THUMBNAIL! BUT WHEN IT OPENS, ONE, TWO, A DOZEN POP-UP ADS ESCAPE, LIKE PAN-DORA'S BOX...!

THE MODEL'S NAME WASN'T PANDORA, IT WAS--

W-WHAT THE ...?

THIS FEELS...GOOD...!

squeeze squeeze

"bam! bam!

knead knead

YOUR RIGHT SHOUL-DER...

rub rub

...THAT'S WHERE THE CURSE IS.

"squeeze

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ...!

TRYING TO STRONG-ARM ME? I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY--

bam! bam! bam!

...HEY!

ｼｭｷｰ

shaaa-

wham-

wham-

whamm!!

noogle!

noogle!

ﾘﾘﾘ…

BLACK ARTS CRUSH !!!

grab!

squeeze!

ｷｭｷｭ

RELIEVING STIFF SHOULDERS AND LOWER BACK PAIN: REIGEN'S SIGNATURE MOVE

knead! キ゛キュッ キュ゛ knead!

grope! コ゛ゴリ ゴ゛リ grope!

roll! モ twist! モミ ミ roll!

く゛く゛ りり twist!

hahh/\hahh ハア ア゛…

THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN DO FOR YOU AS A SPIRIT MEDIUM. I THINK THE CURSE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED, BUT...

...DO YOUR SHOUL-DERS STILL FEEL HEAVY...?

...whew.

SPENDING TIME ONLINE EASILY LEADS TO CURSED SHOUL-DERS!

IT DOES? WELL, IF MY SHOULDERS SHOULD BECOME POS-SESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS AGAIN, I'LL COME BACK TO SEE YOU!

spirits & such

I'M COM-PLETELY WELL AGAIN! IT EVEN FEELS LIKE MY CIRCULA-TION'S BETTER! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE EXORCISM ...!

WOWWWWW!

I'M SO SORRY FOR DOUBT-ING YOU! IT SEEMS THAT I WAS CURSED !

STOP READING THAT MANGA AND GIVE ME A HAND...!

...HEY, MOB! BILL THIS CLIENT!

YOU IDIOT! CALL IT A **CURSE LIFTING FEE**... NOT A **MASSAGE** FEE!

LIMITED TIME OFFER!
CAST OUT THREE SPIRITS FOR THE PRICE OF TWO!!
EXPIRES END OF MONTH!!

PRICE LIST

HELP

TODAY'S HOTTEST EXORCIST!
ARATAKA REIGEN'S
SPIRITS & SUCH

UMM...

...THE FEE FOR A 40-MINUTE MASSAGE IS 3800 YEN, SIR.

...WORKING AS AN ASSISTANT SELLING "SPIRITUAL" SERVICES... FOR THREE BUCKS AN HOUR.

...AND 200 YEN IS YOUR CHANGE.

MOB WAS SQUANDERING HIS PRECIOUS YOUTH...

puff
puff
puff
puff
MASTER REIGEN, YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER AT MAS-SAGE, AREN'T YOU...?
I BOUGHT US SOME TAKOYAKI.
WANT SOME, MOB?
YES, PLEASE.
...IT ALL COMES FROM MY SPIRITUAL ABILITIES.
YOU SEE...
huff! しゅっ
はっ
hahhh...
huff! ふぃっ
はっ
...I SUPPOSE. IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING YOU CAN PICK UP FROM BOOKS, OF COURSE.
OH, NO! WHAT A WASTE ...!
ツーッ
HOTTTT!!!
chomp しゅ
tttt!!! しゅ

MAS-
TER...

...I'VE
BEEN
THINKING.

ZIII

fwoop

fwipp

...BUT IS IT REALLY ENOUGH ...

...IS WHAT I'M WON-DERING.

shoom

chomp

DOES HE NOT LIKE MY ATTI-TUDE?

DOES HE WANT MORE MONEY?

OR HAS HE SEEN I'M A FAKE...?

TRY ME.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

munch もぐ...

WELL...

...IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE THIS FEELING...

HOW CAN I PUT IT...

...I COULD BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE WITH MY LIFE.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO DO? BE IN A BAND? MODEL CLOTHES? HITCHHIKE?

NO, NOT IN PARTICULAR...

THAT'S ADOLESCENCE FOR YOU, MOB!

HUH?

OH...

...SO THAT'S IT.

WELL, DON'T STRESS OUT LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO!

JOCKS, NERDS, HORNDOGS, DELINQUENTS, BOOKWORMS, RICH KIDS...

...DON'T LET ALL THAT RIFF-RAFF AT SCHOOL INFLUENCE *YOU!*

THE "NO-CLUB" KIDS ARE THE BEST!

DON'T BE A JOINER! THIS IS THE TIME IN LIFE WHEN YOU'RE MOST FREE! STAY SMART... AND STAY *SLACK...!*

AND HELP ME OUT FROM TIME TO TIME! EARN SOME MONEY! A LITTLE...

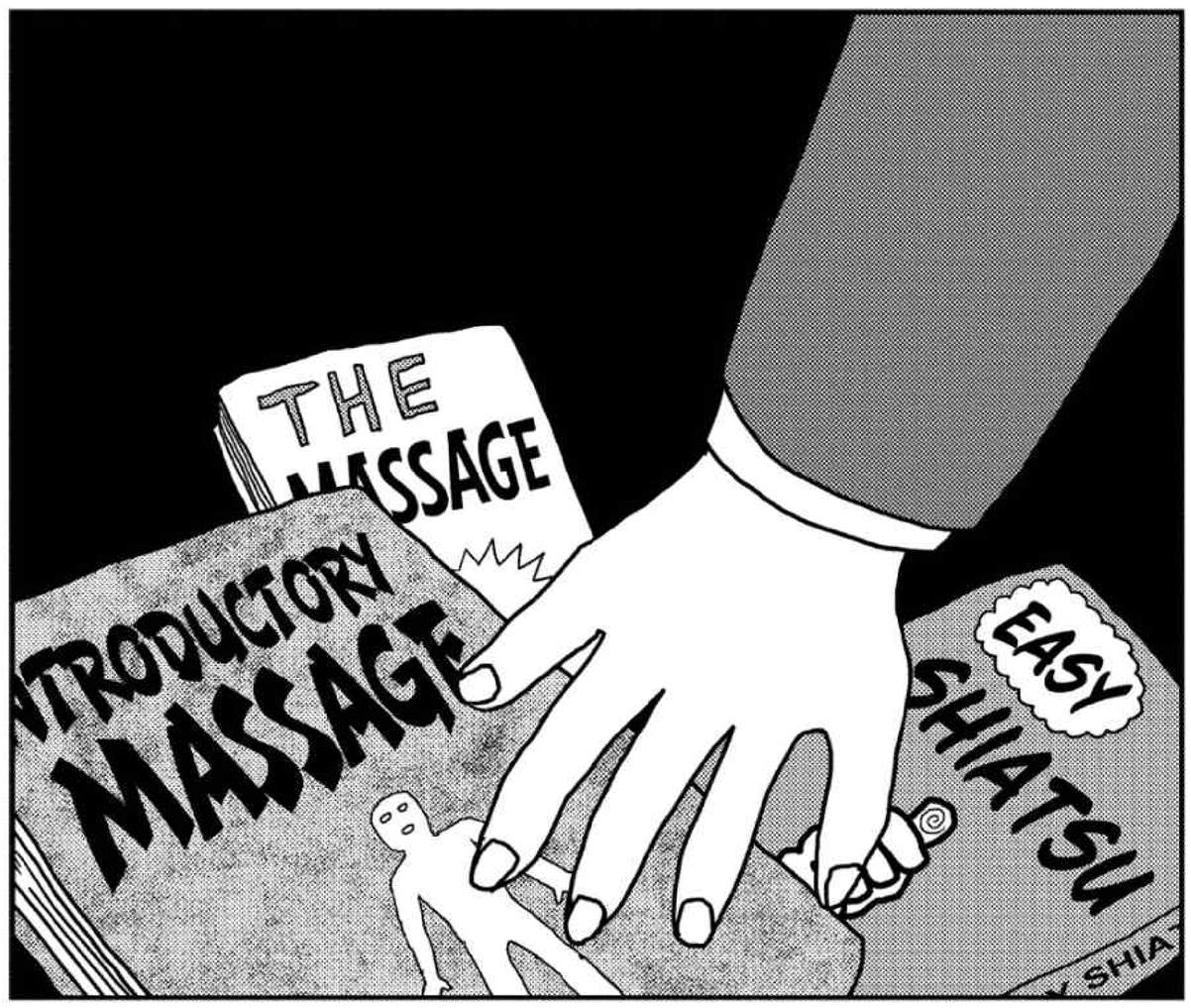
WE NEED TO FIND A KID WHO'S *SLACK...!!*

...WE NEED *SOMEONE* TO JOIN OUR CLUB!

THIS IS BAD...

PROGRESS TOWARD MOB'S EXPLOSION:

31%


THE
MASSAGE
INTRODUCTORY
MASSAGE
EASY
SHIATSU

HUH? YOU...YOU CAN'T JUST SAY THAT OUT OF THE BLUE!!

Seasoning City: Salt Middle School

LOOK, I'M DONE! I'M NOT INTO THIS STUFF!

H-HEY!

TAKE-NAKA! IF YOU QUIT, WE'LL HAVE TO DIS-BAND!

THINK ABOUT IT!

I'M ONLY IN THIS CLUB SO YOU MEET YOUR QUOTA, BUT PEOPLE LOOK AT ME WEIRD ANYWAY.

YEAH, WELL ... ...SORRY, BUT I'M QUIT-TING.

BUT ...!

HE'S GONE ...!

MAN ...!

W-WHAT SHOULD WE DO, CHIEF ...?

BUT WE NEED FIVE OR MORE TO KEEP OUR CLUB STATUS!

ONLY FOUR PEOPLE IN OUR GROUP NOW...!

strain

strain

strain

DRAW UP A LIST OF STUDENTS WHO AREN'T ATTACHED TO ANY CLUBS BY TOMORROW ...!

WE NEED TO MEET THE FIVE-PERSON QUOTA... SO FOR NOW WE JUST NEED TO GET *SOMEONE* TO SIGN THE MEMBER-SHIP FORM!

THERE AREN'T MANY ABSTAIN-ERS.

THE CLUB SCENE'S ACTIVE HERE AT SALT MIDDLE SCHOOL !

...HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE THERE WHO WOULD WANT TO JOIN OUR "TELE-PATHY CLUB" *NOW*...?

YEAH, BUT IT'S WAY PAST RECRUIT-ING SEASON...

MAYBE TAKE-NAKA DE-CIDED TO COME BACK !

knock knock コンコン

knock knock コンコン

YOU HEAR THAT ...?

knock knock コンコン

...?

QUIT WHI-NING...!

IF WE ASK EVERY SINGLE STUDENT, AT LEAST *ONE* OF THEM WILL JOIN US!

...I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T ABANDON US!

TAKE-NAKA ...!

SHI'RAAK

THE...

...THE S-STUDENT COUNCIL !!

I AM HERE TO REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL THAT WE ARE IN RECIEPT OF A CERTIFICATE OF CLUB RESIGNATION FROM TAKENAKA, GRADE 8, CLASS 2. ACCORDINGLY, I HEREBY INFORM YOU...

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

STUDENT COUNCIL

...THIS CLUB IS DIS-BANDED.

A NEW CLUB HAS JUST BEEN FORMED, AND THEY'VE REQUESTED A MEETING ROOM. WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM THIS ONE.

UNFORTUNATELY, I MUST NOW ASK YOU TO GATHER YOUR BELONGINGS AND LEAVE.

FIVE MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED FOR A CLUB.

I WILL NOT ALLOW THE TELEPATHY CLUB TO BE DISBANDED!

H-HOW DARE YOU DECIDE ALL THIS WITHOUT US...!

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE US! YOU THINK THAT TIDY PART IN YOUR HAIR MAKES YOU SO GREAT ...?!

YEAH! YEAH!! WE'RE NOT LEAVING THIS ROOM ...!

THE BONDS OF THE TP CLUB ARE STRONG ...

THE STUDENT COUNCIL IS NOT SO TOUGH !!

J

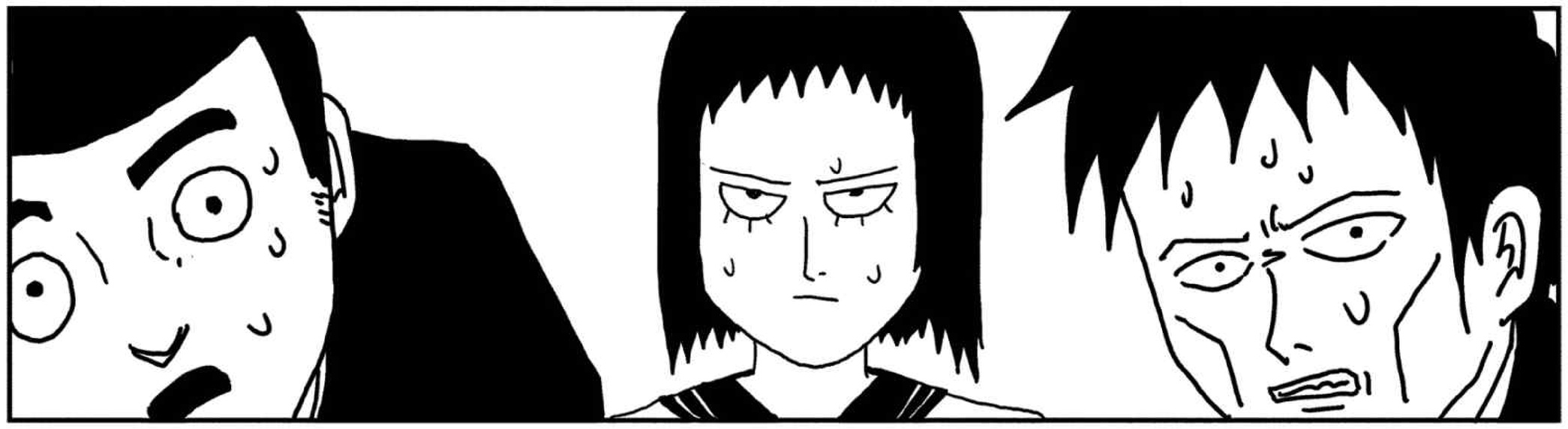
...J-JUST LIKE THAT ...?!

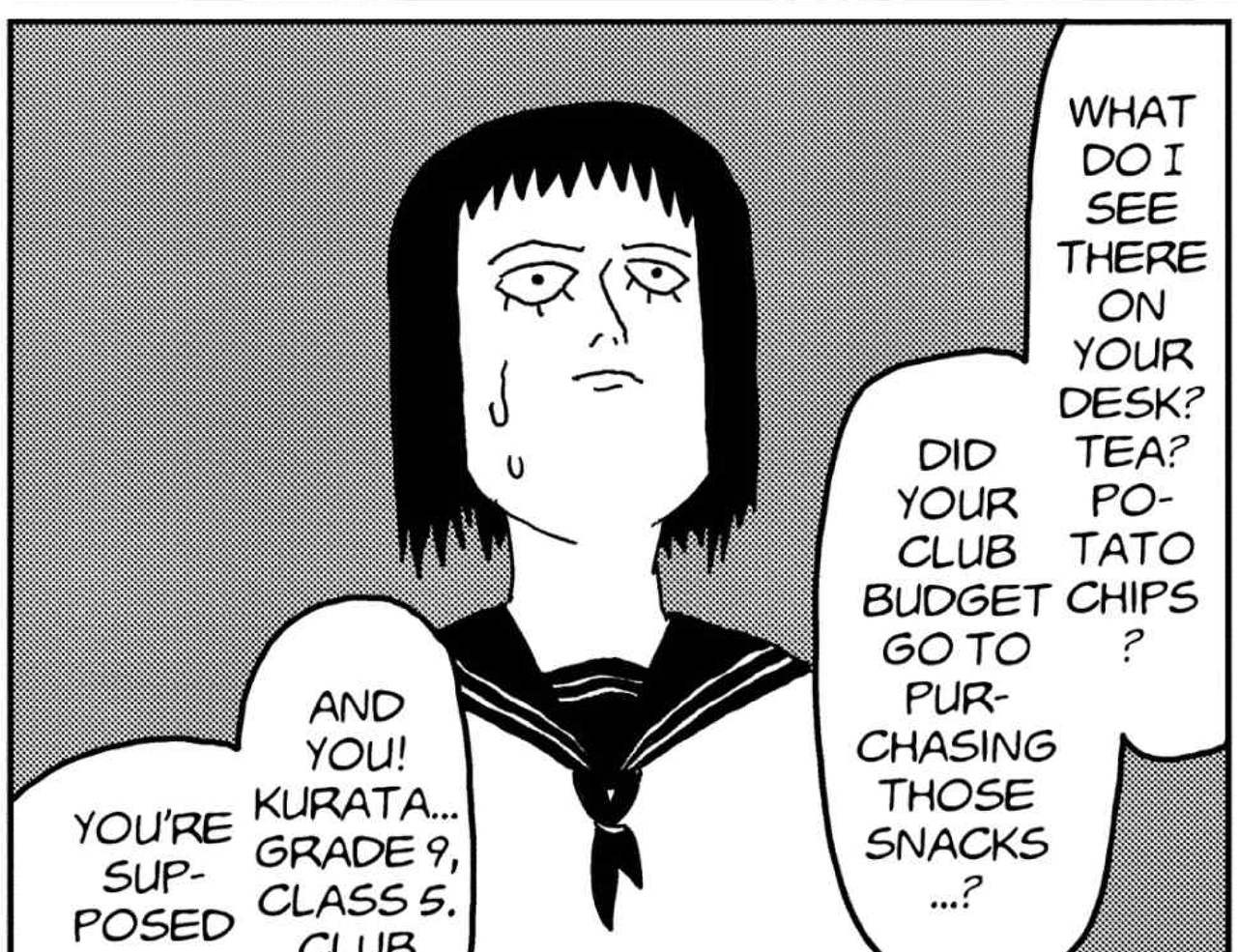
J

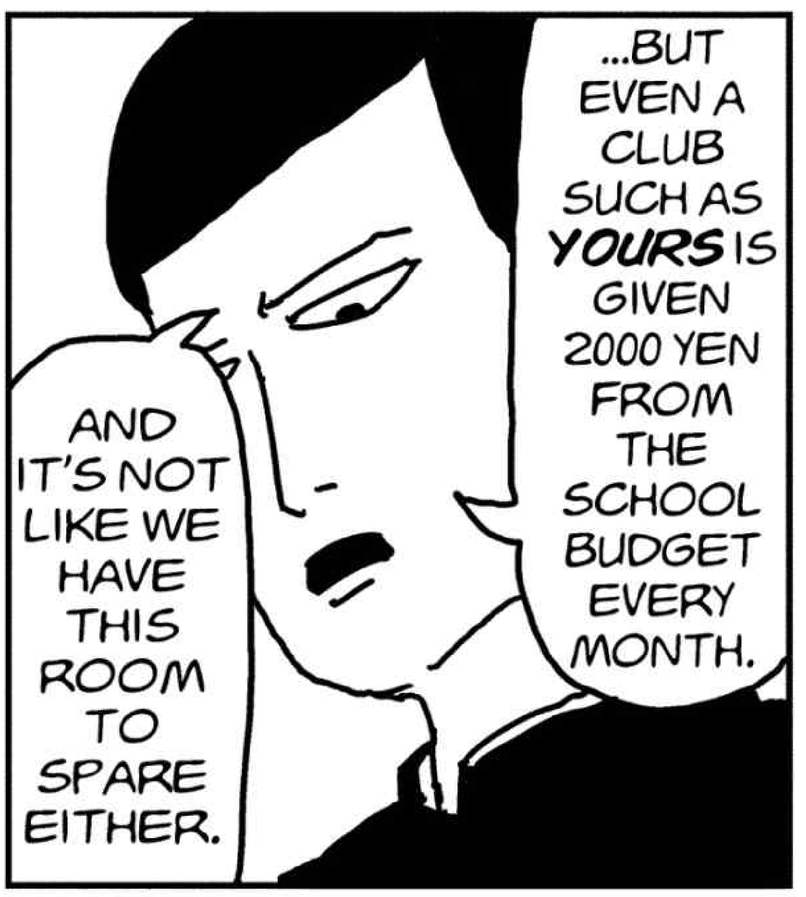
W-W-WAIT ...!

DO YOU WISH I... VICE PRESI-DENT TOKU-GAWA... TO BE ANGERED ...?

SILENCE!







...WE STIMULATE OUR MINDS TO RECEIVE TELEPATHIC MESSAGES.

THE HUMAN BRAIN CONTAINS STILL UNKNOWN POWERS.

I'M NOT CONFIDENT I'LL UNDERSTAND IT, BUT TRY TELLING ME WHAT YOU DO HERE, ANYWAY.

...

...WHAT *IS* THIS "TELEPATHY CLUB" IN THE FIRST PLACE ...?

I'M INCLINED TO THINK IT'S THE RIGHT DECISION REGARDLESS TO DISBAND YOU...BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS.

STUDENT COUCIL

I HOPE YOU PEOPLE AREN'T ACTUALLY UP TO SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.

SO IT'S BOTH POINTLESS, *AND* I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

DON'T YOU KNOW THE REASON I HAVEN'T SUBMITTED AN ACTIVITY REPORT... IS BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY *BEEN* DOING ANYTHING!

BAM!

WHAT A RUDE THING TO SAY!

...OH.

THAT WAS THE WORST COME-BACK POSSIBLE.

TODAY IS LIKELY YOUR FINAL DAY.

HOW DIS-GRACE-FUL TO END IT MUNCH-ING CHIPS.

BLACKLIST

TELEPATHY CLUB
LEG SHAVING CLUB
JUST READING MANGA CLUB
ARGUMENT CLUB
PICK-UP ARTIST CLUB
TSUBOMI FAN CLUB

I DOUBT THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.

YOUR GROUP WAS ALREADY ON OUR BLACKLIST OF DUBI-OUS STU-DENT CLUBS.

I'LL OFFI-CIALLY PRESENT THE DISBAND-MENT FORM TO THE SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW.

Y-YOU CAN'T!

THIS IS OP-PRES-SION ...!

YOU CALL THIS OPPRES-SION? YOU PEOPLE ARE INCRED-IBLE.

ガラッ rattle

...THEN YOU'LL NEED TO RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY TOMOR-ROW.

...BUT IF YOU'RE *THAT* DESPER-ATE TO KEEP THIS SORRY GATHER-ING GOING...

NO WAY ...

...THIS IS B.S.!

B-BY TOMOR-ROW ...?!

lub-dup

ドキッ

lub-dup

ドキッ

...

fwump!

ジャッ

...IT'S JUST NOT POS-SIBLE! A SINGLE DAY...

BUT, CHIEF ...!

growl!

WE'LL FIND A NEW RE-CRUIT... TOMOR-ROW!

WE HAVEN'T *DONE* ANY-THING BE-FORE.

CHIEF...

WE'VE OVER-COME MANY OTHER HARD-SHIPS BEFORE THIS ONE!

NO! YOU'LL SEE ...!

AND SO, THE NEXT DAY...

HAVE WE NOT ...?!

SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME.

WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO BE DIS-BANDED ...?

HUH ?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT "TELE-PATHY" MEANS.

CREEP.

EX-AMS THIS YEAR.

YOU CAN SPEND MORE TIME STUDY-ING.

THAT GIVES ME THE CREEPS. NO WAY.

I'D LIKE A HOT BOY-FRIEND.

ARE THERE ANY... HOT GUYS?

HOT GUYS ?

I'VE GOT A PART TIME JOB. SORRY.

...BUT I'D WORRY ABOUT GETTING LOOKS FROM PEOPLE.

HMM... YOU SAY IT'S TO FILL YOUR QUOTA ...

...THAT'S... CREEPY.

UM ...

CREEP.

IT'S NOOOOOOOO...

...UUUUUUUUUUUSSSSE!

CHIEF!!!

C-CALM DOWN...!

WE'VE ASKED ALMOST EVERYONE WHO SEEMS TO NOT BE IN A CLUB... BUT NO LUCK.

AND THEY TOLD US WHAT THEY THINK OF US...

...EVEN I FEEL LIKE QUITTING NOW, TOO.

LET'S GIVE UP...

... THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL MAKE IT.

AND LUNCH TIME'S ALMOST OVER...

CHIEF ...?

HE'S IN GRADE 8 LIKE ME, AND WE STILL HAVEN'T ASKED HIM.

ピキーン bing!

...THERE IS ONE PERSON.

WAIT... AC-TUALLY ...

?

UM, BECAUSE I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL ...

... AND HE'S A BIT PROB-LEMAT-IC.

WELL, WHY NOT ...?!

WHAT ?

UM...

BUT...

GET BACK TO YOUR CLASS-ROOM!

2-1

HEY, YOU KIDS! LUNCH'S OVER... NO LOITER-ING IN THE HALLS!

INUKAWA! BRING THAT PERSON WITH YOU AFTER SCHOOL!

WE CANNOT LET HIM GET AWAY...!

...I WON-DER...

EVEN IF I DO...

SHIGEO KAGEYAMA. GRADE 8, CLASS 1.

YES, WELL, THAT'S MOSTLY ALL CORRECT.

HE'S NOT ON ANY COMMIT-TEES. HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND. NO FRIENDS AT ALL, ACTUALLY. A MAN WITH TIME ON HIS HANDS.

...SO HERE HE IS, CHIEF.

SALT MIDDLE SCHOOL'S LAST REMAIN-ING "GO-HOME CLUB" STU-DENT.

TEE-HEE! AND I'M THE CHIEF... TOME KUR-ATA, GRADE 9, CLASS 5!

BUT YOU CAN CALL ME TOME-CHAN !!

UM... HEY.

SA-RUTA'S THE NAME. GRADE 7, CLASS 5.

KIJIBA-YASHI! GRADE 9, CLASS 4.

HI!

UM ...

THE CHIEF IS DES-PER-ATE ....!

...

EH?

...Y'KNOW, MY GRAND-MOTHER'S NAMED TOME-CHAN TOO...!

ONLY HALF AN HOUR RE-MAINS... BEFORE OUR CLUB WILL BE DIS-BANDED ...!

...HE'S A SUPER-HUMAN ...!!!

TOME-- I MEAN, CHIEF-- THERE'S SOME-THING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GUY...!!

ゴゴゴ

STUDENTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO BE IN MULTIPLE CLUBS AT THIS SCHOOL...

...WE'VE ASKED ALL THE OTHER NO-CLUB KIDS, BUT THEY TURNED US DOWN!

YOU'RE OUR LAST HOPE, KAGEYAMA! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE!

SIGN THIS MEMBERSHIP FORM...AND SAVE US FROM ANNIHILATION!

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL TOKUGAWA IS MAKING MOVES TO TRY TO DISBAND OUR TELEPATHY CLUB...!

IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THIS CRISIS... WE NEED TO GET ONE NEW MEMBER TO JOIN US *TODAY!*

...WE BEG OF YOU!!!

CHAPTER 4: FOR HIS OWN SAKE

I CAN'T TODAY.

EHHHHHHHHHHH ?!?

ど…
ぴゅっ
splurt

WELL, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR ?!

NO, I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME. SORRY.

BUT ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS SIGN THE FORM AND TAKE IT TO THE COUNCIL !

YES, I HAVE TO GET GOING RIGHT NOW.

HANG ON A SECOND, MOB! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU "CAN'T TODAY" ...?!

DO YOU HAVE PLANS OR SOME-THING ?!

CHIEF, I USED TO THINK THIS GUY WAS JUST PULLING TRICKS...

...BUT I'VE SEEN IT...!

...OH. EXOR-CISM? WHAT? YOU, KAGE-YAMA?

"EXER-CISM"? WHAT'S AN EXER-CISM?

AT 4:30, I'VE GOT TO SEE A CLIENT FOR AN EXOR-CISM.

デデーン da-daa!!

I CAN TELL YOU...

...THIS GUY'S A SUPER-HUMAN !!!

HE MADE AN ERASER MOVE WITHOUT TOUCHING IT!

GDMU

BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL... HE COULD BEND SPOONS !

AND YES... HE COULD SEE GHOSTS !!!

HE COULD TOUCH A FLAME AND NOT GET HURT!

HOLD ON.

I'M DOING IT TO HELP OUT MY MENTOR, SO LET ME CALL AND ASK HIM.

LOOK, NEVER MIND ALL THAT. JUST JOIN US.

THE EXORCISM CAN WAIT A BIT, CAN'T IT...?!

HE HAS A MEN-TOR ?!

MAYBE THIS IS MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT ...

ARE YOU SURE THIS MENTOR OF YOURS ISN'T A FRAUD...?

THE VICE PRESI-DENT'S GOING TO BE HERE ANY MOMENT...

YES, HELLO.

WHAT'S UP, MOB?

AH, MASTER REIGEN. IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I'M A BIT LATE?

I'VE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN A CLUB, AND I HAVE TO SUBMIT A MEMBER-SHIP FORM TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

OKAY, JUST DROP OFF THE FORM AND GO.

UM, YOU SEE, I'VE GOT TO WAIT UNTIL 4:30 TO DO THAT...

THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETS THEN, AND THEY ONLY ACCEPT FORMS FROM A NEW MEMBER IN PERSON.

WELL, OKAY, THEN! GET OVER HERE NOW. SHOW THEM HOW EARLY A CLUB-FREE KID LEAVES SCHOOL.

YES.

IS IT ALSO THAT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY WANT TO JOIN THE CLUB ...?

I PROMISED YOU FIRST, SO YOU GET PRIORITY, RIGHT?

HUH...? SO, IF I TELL YOU THAT I NEED YOU HERE NOW, YOU WON'T JOIN?

A GIRL ...?

WE'LL BE DIS-BAND-ED ...!

IF WE DON'T GET KAGEYAMA TO JOIN US NOW, WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!

SHE'S USING MOB.

っ

HEY! GIVE ME THAT!

HE SAYS I HAVE TO GO NOW, SO I'LL BE OFF.

NO. THAT SOUNDS WAY TOO FISHY. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TELE-PATHY" ...?

WE'RE A CLUB THAT TRAINS TO BE TELE-PATHI-CALLY SENSI-TIVE!

...!

WE'RE NOT A **SPORTS** CLUB!

MOB'S NOT THE ATH-LETIC TYPE.

YOU SHOULDN'T FORCE HIM.

WE'RE A TELE-PATHY CLUB...!

LET ME GUESS. ART?

WIND IN-STRU-MENTS ?

MOB IS BASICALLY MY APPRENTICE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH GETTING AN APPRENTICE TO HELP ME? AMATEUR!

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S STEALING AWAY MY PROTÉGÉ'S PRECIOUS TIME WITH YOUR STUPID GAMES!

I'VE NEVER RELIED ON THE "RUMORS" ABOUT MOB.

THESE RUMORS ARE ON A VERY SMALL SCALE.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, MOB USED HIS POWERS IN FRONT OF PEOPLE WHEN HE WAS IN EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

IS IT BECASE OF THAT RUMOR HE HAS POWERS...

...AND YOU'RE USING THAT TO REEL IN THE CUSTOMERS...?

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S A SHAM!

WHO ARE YOU TO TALK ...?!

WHY DOES KAGEYAMA--A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT...

...HAVE TO ASSIST A SPIRIT MEDIUM ...?!

T-THAT WE'LL GET KICKED OUT OF THIS CLUB ROOM ...?!

S-SO YOU DON'T CARE IF OUR CLUB IS DIS-BANDED ...?!

sob! sob!

チラッ glance

boo hoo...

NO! DON'T LET HER FOOL YOU! THOSE ARE CROCODILE TEARS! IF THEY'RE REAL, WHAT IS SHE CRYING ABOUT?

EVEN IF THE SCHOOL DIS-BANDS THEM, THEY CAN STILL DO IT ON THEIR OWN, CAN'T THEY ...?

boo hoo hoo

boo hoo

MAS-TER REI-GEN.

THE CLUB CHIEF'S IN TEARS. I REALLY DO THINK I SHOULD JOIN AFTER ALL...

YOU DON'T... AHEM... NEED TELE-PATHY TO GET THE MENTAL IMAGE OF THEIR CLUB ACTIVI-TIES...

NAMELY, SLACK-ING OFF AFTER SCHOOL ...!

I CAN PIC-TURE WHAT THEIR CLUB ROOM IS LIKE!

SNACKS AND JUNK FOOD! AM I RIGHT ...?

NO!!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THEY REALLY DON'T WANT TO LOSE...

THEIR "BUD-GET"!

THEIR "ROOM"!

"BONDS."

"MEMO-RIES."

"FRIEND-SHIP."

ARE SUCH THINGS SO FRAGILE THEY'LL LOSE THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY GET DISBAND-ED...?

IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, THEN GET OVER HERE RIGHT NOW! IF THE SPIRIT'S TOO WEAK AGAIN, I'LL BE GETTING YOU TO MELT IT...!

USE SOME DOUBT... NOT TRUST!

SEE THROUGH IT, MOB!! HELPING THE PEOPLE IN FRONT OF YOU IS *NOT* ALWAYS THE RIGHT THING!

YOU'LL JUST BE HELPING THEM WASTE MORE OF THE SCHOOL'S MONEY AND SPACE ...!

THEY'RE BEING SHUT DOWN BECAUSE THEY DESERVE IT.

I HEARD YOUR CONVER-SATION ON THE PHONE JUST NOW...

slip スッ

MOB! HEAR ME OUT TOO.

I DO WANT AN AIR CONDITIONED ROOM WHERE I CAN STUFF MY FACE WITH SNACKS AND READ MANGA.

AND IS THAT REALLY SO WRONG ...?

LOOK, I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU. MAYBE CHIEF KURATA ACTUALLY DOES BELIEVE IN TELEPATHY ...

...BUT AS FOR *ME*, I JUST WANT A NICE PLACE WHERE I CAN HANG OUT...JUST LIKE YOUR MASTER SAID.

MIDDLE SCHOOL! THIS IS *SUPPOSED* TO BE THE TIME WHEN WE'RE ALLOWED TO SLACK OFF, ISN'T IT?

SOON IT'LL BE HIGH SCHOOL... COLLEGE EXAMS... *JOBS* ...!!!

BUT WE'RE STILL IN *JUNIOR HIGH*, AREN'T WE...?

...YEAH, WE'RE NOT DOING ANY-THING PRO-DUCTIVE ...!

THE CLUB'S HOPE-LESS! YEAH, I ADMIT IT...

JEEZ! EVEN FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL KID, YOU'RE GETTING RIPPED OFF!

HE'S COM-PLETELY USING YOU...!

stride 十 11

HE PAYS ME 300 YEN AN HOUR.

DOESN'T THAT SOUND BETTER THAN A SCARY EXORCISM ?

WHERE'S THE BENEFIT FOR YOU IN ASSISTING SOME SPIRIT MEDIUM ?!

HUH ?!

WE GOTTA SEIZE THE DAY AND DO *NOTHING* WHILE WE STILL CAN...!

JOIN US, MOB! RELAX! LET'S OPEN A COLD SODA AND PLAY SOME CARDS!!

reach ...

shuffle

THERE'S NO CLUB MORE CASUAL THAN US...

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SHOW UP ALL THE TIME! JUST COME WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT, IT'S FINE!

shuffle

shuffle

LOOK! WE'VE GOT A GAME CONSOLE TOO!

STUDENT COUNCIL

shuffle

DON'T HAVE ANY-THING MORE TO DO WITH HIM!

I WOULDN'T LIE TO YOU, MAN! JOIN OUR CLUB!

shuffle

IT'S VICE PRESI-DENT TOKU-GAWA ...!

T-THAT KNOCK-ING...!

...!

knock knock

...VICE PRESI-DENT.

...WE WEREN'T EXPECT-ING YOU UNTIL AFTER 4:30...

UM... YOU KNOW ...

rattle

...BECAUSE I NEEDED TO SHOW THEM THEIR CLUB ROOM.

AH. WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE I ASKED TO BE LET OUT OF THE MEETING EARLY...

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

...THAT A NEW CLUB HAS BEEN FORMED ON CAMPUS.

I AM PLEASED TO AN-NOUNCE ...

WHY... KAGEYAMA HERE IS THINKING ABOUT JOINING!!!

THE TELE-PATHY CLUB HASN'T EVEN BEEN OFFI-CIALLY DIS-BANDED YET...!

doom! doom! doom! doom! doom! doom! doom!

PLEASE SURREN-DER THE ROOM IMMEDI-ATELY... TO THE JUST-ESTAB-LISHED BODY IMPROVE-MENT CLUB.

WHAT THE?! WAIT A MINUTE ...!!

ARE YOU INSANE?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

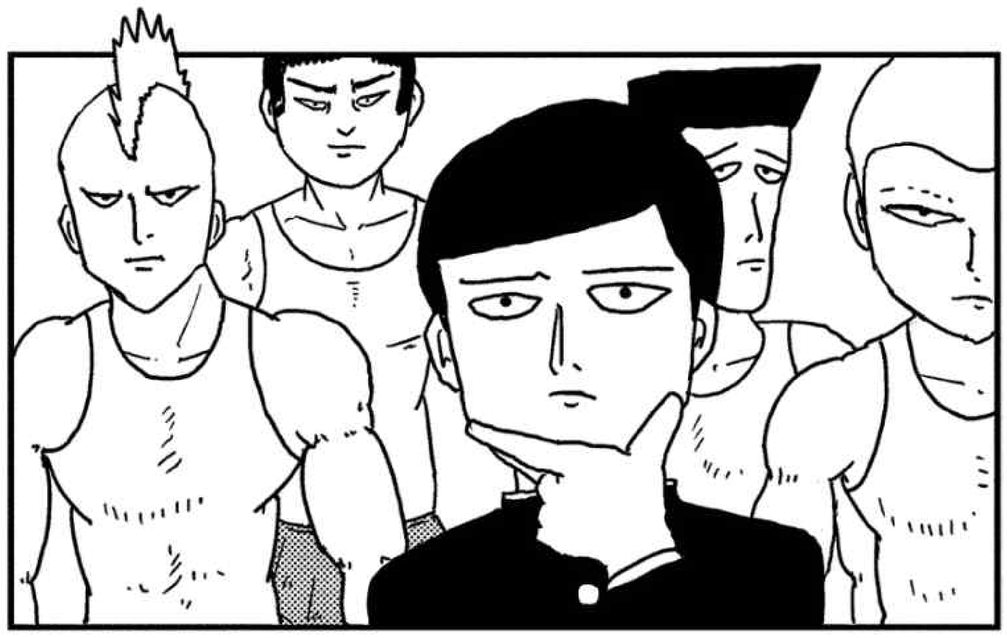
TELL ME... WHAT'S GOING THROUGH YOUR HEAD...?

DON'T YOU HAVE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO ...?

I MEAN... ANY GOALS ...?

IF YOU JOIN THESE PEOPLE, THEY CAN MAKE THEIR QUOTA AND STAY A CLUB.

AND YET, YOU HAVE NO REAL INTEREST IN THEM... SO WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU...?



I HAVE SOME QUES-TIONS FOR YOU.

KAGE-YAMA, EH...?

GO AHEAD.

OKAY.

NO, NOT REAL-LY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY CLOSE FRIENDS IN THE TELE-PATHY CLUB?

NONE!

WHAT OTHER COMMIT-TEES OR CLUBS HAVE YOU BEEN IN?

EIGHT!

GRADE?

NONE!

TUTOR-ING?

NO.

STUDY?

AT HOME, I WATCH TV, OR SLEEP.

AT HOME?

SOME-TIMES I HELP AN AC-QUAIN-TAINCE WITH WORK.

AFTER SCHOOL?

YES?

HM.

NO.

GOING OUT WITH ANY-ONE?

HOBBY... UM...

HOBBY?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY WILL OF YOUR OWN...?

KAGEYAMA... UNLESS YOU MAKE YOUR OWN PATH, YOU WON'T JUST BE IN THIS "GHOST CLUB"...YOU'LL BE A GHOST YOURSELF.

AND IF YOU HONESTLY *DO* WANT TO JOIN THEM... I WON'T STOP YOU.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TURN THEM DOWN... MAKE IT QUICK AND CLEAN.

...IN IT FOR ME ...?

WHAT'S...

BUT...

...WHAT YOU ABSO-LUTELY *SHOULD* NOT DO...

...IS LOOK AT THE EX-PRES-SIONS ON OTHER PEO-PLE'S FACES AND DECIDE.

ｈｉ

ｗｉｌｌ

shiver

WHAT... IS MY WILL...?

ザワッ shiver

CLUBS?

GAMES?

HOBBIES?

STUDY?

ザワッ shiver

WHAT IS IT THOSE PEOPLE ARE ENJOY-ING...?

ザワッ shiver

I ENVY... PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN.

THINGS I ENJOY? THINGS I ENVY?

ザワッ shiver

ザワッ shiver

DO I HAVE WANTS...?

WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?

I DO HAVE A DREAM ...!

AH !!!

BOYS AND GIRLS GETTING ALONG... SEEM TO HAVE FUN...

AND AFTER SCHOOL...

WE'D HOLD HANDS...

...AND LEAVE TO-GETHER.

...I OFTEN SHOWED HER MY POWERS... HOPING TO IMPRESS HER.

YES. WHEN I WAS LITTLE...

I'D CON-FESS MY LOVE TO TSU-BOMI...

MY FIRST LOVE ...

LOOK!

I ONLY SHOW THIS TO YOU, TSU-BOMI ...!

LOOK! LOOK!

pant pant pant pant

I'M...

...BORED!

THE RED TEAM'S IN THE LEAD...!

TSU-BOMI PRE-FER-RED BOYS WHO COULD RUN FAST...

AND AFTER THAT...I RARELY SHOWED ANYONE MY POWERS.

I LOST CONFI-DENCE IN MY ONE ABILITY... BUT...

...OVER ME AND MY SUPER POW-ERS.

...AKIRA, YOU'RE SO FAST!

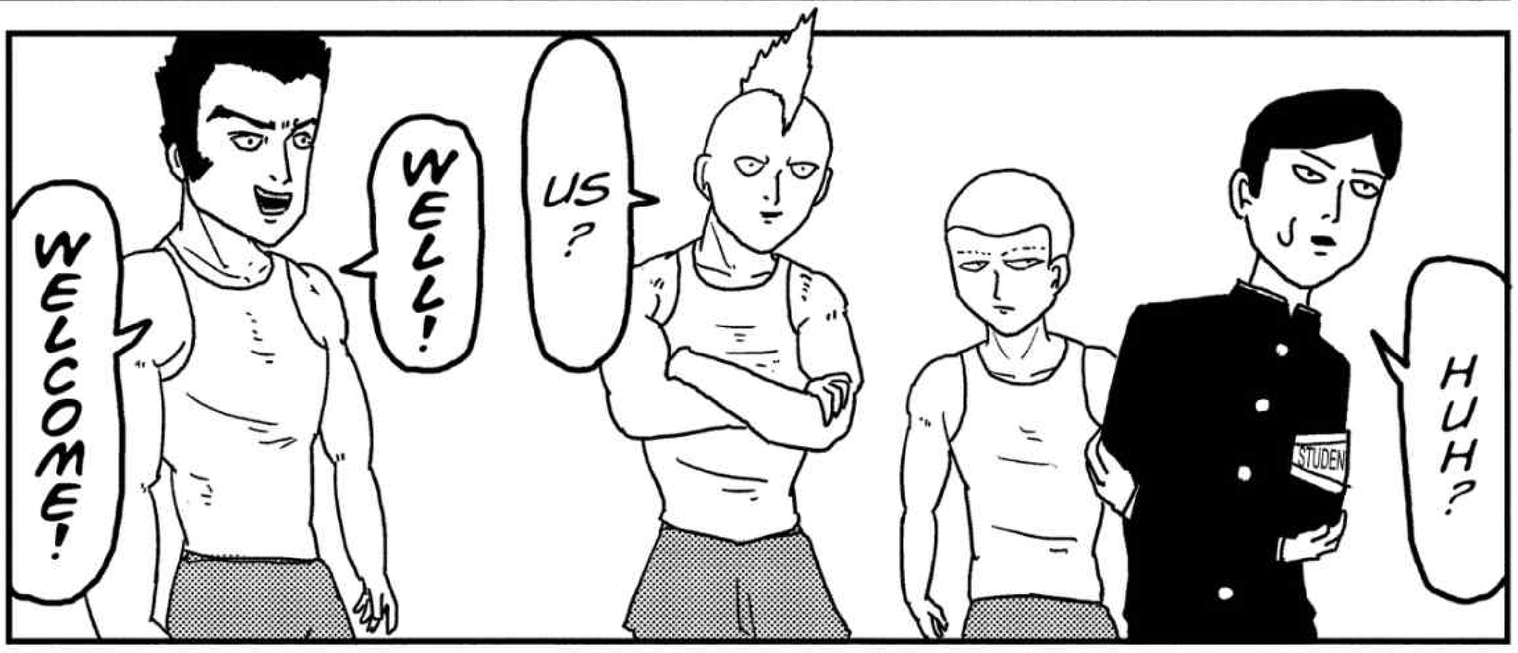
IF JOINING THIS CLUB WILL CHANGE THINGS...!

I'VE MADE MY DECISION! I AM GOING TO JOIN...

...THE BODY IMPROVE-MENT CLUB!!!

PROGRESS TOWARD MOB'S EXPLOSION:

40%



Meanwhile

MOB'S STILL RUNNING LATE.

POSSESSED, EH? AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT ...?

KINDA FEELS LIKE I'M POSSESSED. SO MAYBE YOU COULD EXORCISE IT...?

I'M INOUE. I MADE A RESERVATION ...?

PLEASE TAKE A SEAT IN THE CHAIR WHILE I CAST IT OUT FROM YOU.

OH, YES. THAT IS DEFINITELY DUE TO AN EVIL SPIRIT.

...AND I BELIEVE AN EVIL SPIRIT MAY BE TO BLAME.

I'VE NEVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND IN MY ENTIRE LIFE...

OKAY, THE EXORCISM IS COMPLETE. STARTING TOMORROW, IF YOU MAKE THE EFFORT, YOU'LL GET A GIRLFRIEND.

SPSSH!

FINALLY, I'LL APPLY THIS SACRED WAX TO YOUR HAIR...AND A SPRITZ OF THIS HOLY WATER TO YOUR PULSE POINTS...

NOW SHIATSU TO IMPROVE SKIN TONE. GHOSTS, BEING DEAD, HATE A HEALTHY-LOOKING SKIN.

SNIP! SNIP!

FIRST I'LL TRIM YOUR HAIR AND BROWS. SPIRITS CAN INFEST THERE. LIKE LICE.

ぐりぐり!

...LET ME HEAR YOU !!!

NOW, BODY IMPROVEMENT CLUB...

FIGHT!

FIGHT!

FIGHT!

ON!

ON!

WHAT IS IT, KAGE-YAMA? I CAN'T HEAR YOU...!!

FIGHT!

ON!

FIGHT ON!

...IS NOT IN SUPER-POWERS.

A MAN'S CHARM...

...IN ORDER TO CHANGE MYSELF.

WHEEZE!

I HAVE JOINED THE BODY IM-PROVE-MENT CLUB...

CHAPTER 5: SIMPLY PUT, TO BE ATTRACTIVE

ドサッ
thud

FIGHT!
ON!
FIGHT!
ON!

HEY! WHAT HAP-PENED ...?!

CHIEF! KAGEYAMA'S COLLAPSED ...!

YOU FELLOWS KEEP GOING. I'LL CARRY HIM BACK TO THE CLUB ROOM.

...HE MUST BE ANE-MIC ...!

...OH, NO! AND WE'VE ONLY BEEN OUT FOR FIVE MIN-UTES...

BODY IMPROVEMENT CLUB:
CHIEF MUSASHI

CHIEF!

HM? WHAT'S WRONG WITH KAGE-YAMA ...?

OUR GROUP MAY HAVE BEEN DISBANDED...

COME ON. DON'T BE SO HARD ON THEM.

HOW COULD HE CHOOSE THE BODY IMPROVEMENT CLUB OVER *US*? WHAT A WEIRDO...

HMPH... I CAN'T *BELIEVE* THIS!

YOUR MOVE, CHIEF KURATA.

BUT THE BODY IMPROVEMENT CLUB *IS* LETTING US KEEP HANGING OUT HERE.

WHICH IS WHAT WE REALLY WANTED, RIGHT ...?

TOO LUCKY.

IT'S LIKE OUR CLUB CAN'T BE SLAIN...WE'RE IMMORTAL...

AND THE STUDENT COUNCIL CAN'T HARASS US NOW! WE'RE LUCKY...

MUSASHI FROM THE BODY IMPROVE-MENT CLUB! WASSUP !!!

rattle!

HEY! YOU TP GUYS IN HERE ?!

HM? WHO'S THAT ON YOUR SHOUL-DER ...?

KAGE-YAMA. HE PAS-SED OUT.

MOB !!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GROV-EL.

WE ONLY NEED IT TO STORE OUR WEIGHTS. PLENTY OF ROOM FOR YOU GUYS, TOO.

THANK YOU FOR LETTING US USE THE CLUB ROOM !!!

HE JUST LEFT HIM HERE.

LOOK AFTER HIM? WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH HIM...?

COULD YOU ALL LOOK AFTER HIM?

SORRY. BUT I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO TRAIN-ING.

IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO JOIN *US*, THAT'S ONE THING...

...BUT WHY HOOK UP WITH THOSE JOCKS ...?

HERE. DRINK SOME WATER, MOB.

TUNK

T-THANKS ...

ゼヒュー wheeze...

SEE... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN NON-ATH-LETIC...

...SO I WANTED TO GROW SOME MUS-CLES.

ヒューアウウ wheeze!!

YOU KNOW... GET INTO SHAPE ...

I CAN'T EVEN R-RUN FAST ...

...'CAUSE I'VE ALWAYS DE-PENDED ON MY SUPER-POWERS, SEE...

OH YEAH, RIGHT.

THAT'S THE LAMEST EXCUSE I'VE EVER HEARD.

YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT YOU'VE GOT *SUPER-POWERS* ...?

SURE YOU DO. SHOW ME THESE "SUPER-POWERS."

EH ?

THE DUMB-BELLS ...?

THOSE!

...?

glance

glance

17 float

TWOOSH

WOOSH

HEAVY...

OOF!

ドドド

WELL, IF YOU CAN DO *THAT* WITH YOUR MIND, THEN YOU MUST BE ABLE TO *READ* THEM, TOO, RIGHT ...?!

PLEASE!! I NEED YOU TO HELP ME ACHIEVE MY DREAM!!!

...AND *YOU'RE* THE PROOF THOSE POWERS EXIST, MOB...!

IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE WITH PRESENT DAY SCIENCE...BUT I THOUGHT, IF WE COULD DRAW OUT HUMANITY'S UNKNOWN LATENT POWERS...

...IS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH EXTRA-TERRES-TRIALS SOME-WHERE OUT IN SPACE...AND COMMUNI-CATE WITH THEM!

TO TELL THE TRUTH, MY DREAM ...

...BUT YOU!

...BUT NOTHING WAS HAPPEN-ING.

AT FIRST I READ LOTS OF BOOKS ON ESP...I TRIED TO SEARCH WITHIN MYSELF...

AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD BURIED MY DREAM... UNDER A LAZY MOUND OF POTATO CHIP PACKETS.

YOU ARE THE HOPE THAT WILL REVIVE OUR FOUNDING MISSION ...!

...AND LET US ACHIEVE CLOSE ENCOUN-TERS IN THE INFINITY OF SPACE ...!

MOB!! COME EXPLORE TELE-PATHY WITH US...

HEY, YOU.

LET ME ASK YOU SOME-THING.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD TO-WARDS MY BURN-ING PAS-SION ...?

NO THANKS, I'VE GOT WEIGHT TRAINING.

YOU CAN SAY ...

...IT'S FOR MAS-CULINE AP-PEAL.

YOU MEAN... BUILD-ING UP YOUR MUS-CLES?

BUT *WHY?* YOU'VE GOT SUPER-POWERS.

IT'S JUST, MISS TOME, THAT I'VE FINALLY FOUND SOME-THING I WANT...

...TO DO.

NO...

urk

EH?

...SO YOU WANT TO BE ATTRAC-TIVE...

...MOB?

UM...

EH ...?

BECAUSE YOU'RE *NOT* ATTRAC-TIVE.

GET AS RIPPED AS YOU WANT. IT WON'T MATTER.

AND EVEN IF YOU HAD MUSCLES YOU WOULDN'T BE ATTRACTIVE.

IF YOU DO THAT, THEN YOU'LL KNOW WHAT SHE REALLY WANTS, RIGHT...?

USE TELE-PATHY... TO READ A GIRL'S HEART.

BUT... THEN WHAT CAN I DO...?

OH, THAT'S EASY.

...

THAT'S THE WAY FOR YOU TO BE ATTRAC-TIVE.

WHAT'S THAT? TELE-PATHY ...?

...OH. YOU MEAN LIKE, COMMUNI-CATING WITH PEOPLE FAR AWAY, OR READING PEOPLE'S MINDS...?

POLLEN DOOM FOR EARTH

Spirits & such

HEY, MOB.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT NO WORK TODAY.

...WHY DO YOU ASK?

AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN THE POWERS YOU'VE GOT...?

fwap

SO, UNFORTUNATELY I'VE GOT NO ADVICE FOR YOU ON THE MENTAL COMMUNICATION FRONT.

THE DEAD DON'T SPEAK, AS THEY SAY.

...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HAVING A CHAT.

UM, I *CAN* TALK TO SPIRITS ...

I CAN'T REALLY DO TELEPATHY.

ビッ twing!

...A GIRL?

IS THERE A MIND BELONGING TO ***SOMEONE*** THAT YOU WANT TO PEEK INTO? MAYBE...

ER... NO REASON. JUST WONDERING.

TALK TO SOMEONE ELSE.

spirits & such

IF I COULD TELL YOU HOW, I'D HAVE BECOME ATTRACTIVE LONG AGO.

SEE, I DON'T NEED TELEPATHY. I BET THAT'S THE REASON YOU STARTED WEIGHT TRAINING, TOO...?

MY, MY, MOB.

YOU'RE SO EASY TO READ.

...HECK, I'M A GROWN MAN, AND I NEVER GOT THERE.

m-hmm

NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. IN MIDDLE SCHOOL ESPECIALLY, BOYS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE GOOD LOOKS.

I JUST...

I DON'T NEED TO BE ALL **THAT** ATTRAC-TIVE...

...WANT TO GET ALONG WITH TSU-BOMI.

スタ step

スタ step

スタ step

SAY...

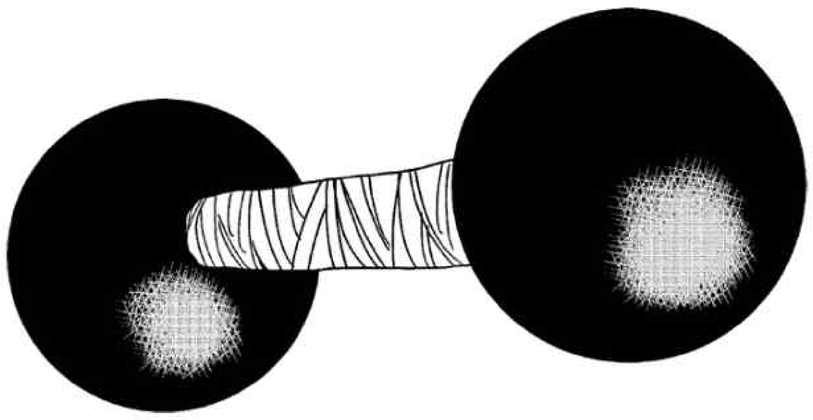
...BOY.

スッ shuffle

...I CAN SENSE IT...

...YOU'RE FEELING *TROUBLED*... AREN'T YOU...?

ピタ screech!



NO, I...

?

YOU'RE NOT SMILING AT ALL...!

YOU ARE TROUBLED...! ONE LOOK AT YOUR FACE AND I CAN SEE IT!

...YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR GRADES, RIGHT?

I KNOW WHAT IT IS...THE SAME PROBLEM EVERYONE IN JUNIOR HIGH RUNS UP AGAINST...

...BUT KEEPING YOUR TROUBLES TO YOURSELF WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!

CHAPTER 6: INVITATION TO A GATHERING

...IT MUST BE HEALTH... ...NO? MONEY, THEN. NO, NOT THAT EITHER.

WHAT'S WITH HER ...?

NO. I'M BASIC-ALLY FINE.

OH, OKAY, NOT FAMILY TROUBLE, THAT'S ONE GOOD THING AT LEAST. SO...

OH, OKAY. NOT YOUR GRADES, THEN.

NO, I'M NOT REALLY TROU-BLED...

DEALING WITH FAMILY TROUBLES IS HARD, ISN'T IT...?

YES, YES...

T-THAT IS WHAT I'M TROUBLED ABOUT! HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT...?!

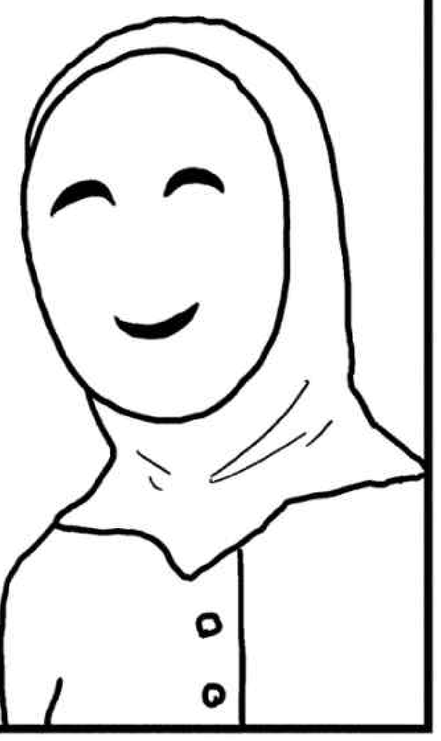
WELL, THE ONLY THING LEFT TO ASK ABOUT IS YOUR LOVE LIFE...

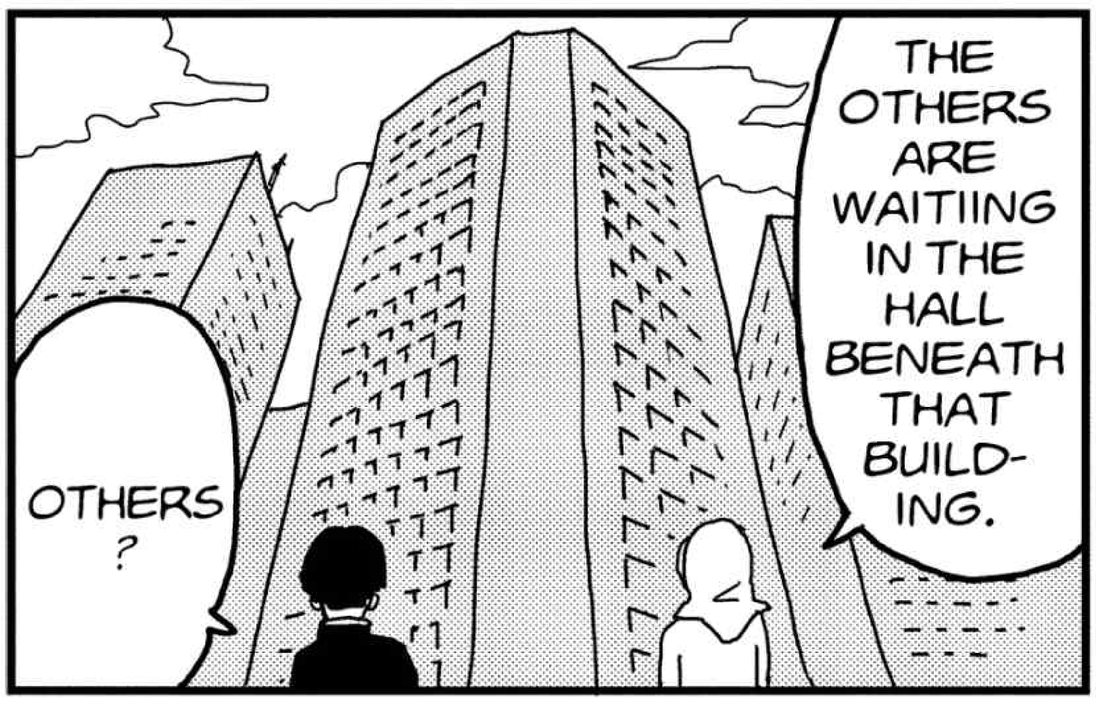
NO, I'D BETTER GET HOME ...

YOU'LL BE-COME AT-TRAC-TIVE.

I PROMISE I'VE GOT JUST THE THING.

IF YOU WANT TO SOLVE YOUR PROB-LEMS, PLEASE COME WITH ME.





...TO MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD HAPPY IN A SNAP.

ポチッ

YOU SEE, WE'RE A BRAND NEW RELIGION THAT WAS FORMED JUST LAST MONTH...

THE NAME OF OUR ORDER IS "(LOL)." OUR FOUNDER, LORD DIMPLE, DESCENDED TO EARTH, A GOD INCARNATE, IN ORDER TO SAVE HUMANITY, AND HAS ESTABLISHED THE MOST TRENDY GET-TOGETHER OF THIS CENTURY.

ウィveeee

LOL

...THERE'S NOTHING FISHY ABOUT (LOL).

WOW...

...A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE.

DO THEY ALL WANT TO BE ATTRAC-TIVE, TOO ...?

...HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT ME?

OOH! IT'S A *NEW* RECRUIT!

GET UP ON STAGE!

HUH? WHAT FOR?

COME ON, COME ON!

hooray!

hooray!

HUH...? MOB, YOU'RE HERE TOO...?

ざわ chatter!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

ざわ chatter!

ワイ ワイ yayy! yayy!

カツ klak

LORD!

OUR LORD!

カツ klak

LORD DIMPLE!

LORD DIMPLE!!

カツ klak

psst! DON'T YOU RECOG-NIZE ME? MEZATO! WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS!

SO THEY LURED YOU INTO THIS TOO...?

ICHI MEZATO: JOURNALISM CLUB

HE'S HERE!

LORD DIMPLE!

OH! I'VE NEVER SPOKEN TO HER BE-FORE...

WELL, I, UM...

LORD!

LORD!

LORD DIMPLE!

rahhh!

rahh!

TELL ME...

EVERY-ONE...

hoo-

...ARE YOU LAUGH-ING ?!?

HA HA HA HA HA !!!

ﾅﾆｶ twist

ﾅﾆｶ twist

AWWW HA HA HA HA HA HA !!!

WAH HA HA HA HA!!!

HA HAHA HA!!!

LOOT!

HEE HEEEEE!!!

GYAAHAAAA!!

HYUK! HYUK!! HYUK!!!

HA HA HA HA HA!

WELL, I GUESS WE'RE ALL WARMED UP NOW...?

HOW ABOUT WE ALL TAKE OFF THESE MASKS, THEN?

hee hee hee hee

HEE HEE HEE HEE !!!

grin!

ニヤ

ニヤ

THESE PEOPLE CREEP ME OUT...

...

OH, WHAT NICE SMILES YOU HAVE, EVERY-ONE...!

THEY'RE THE PROOF YOU'RE FULL OF HAPPI-NESS!

ゴゴゴ

ahh
haはは
haha
haha
haha
haha
haha
haha
haha
haw!
I HOPE WE GET TO THE MAIN THING SOON...
haw!
haw!
haw!

ヒヲ freeze

STOP!

YOU SEE HERE ...

...

"HA, HA..." RIGHT ...

WE HAVE THREE NEW MEMBERS JOINING US TODAY!

clap clap clap

NOW, THESE THREE UNHAPPY FLOWER-POTS HAVE BEEN LED TO US TODAY.

LET'S LOOK AT THEIR FACES.

IN ORDER TO NURTURE THE SEEDS OF HAPPINESS, WE MUST FIRST CULTIVATE THE SOIL.

THE RICH LOAM LIES IN OUR HEARTS. BUT IS ENTANGLED WITH THE GRASPING WEEDS OF THIS WORLD.

wham!

SUCH MISERY...!

AND WHY IS THAT ...?!

THEY ARE ALL NOT SMIL-ING.

IF YOU ALWAYS SMILE, YOU WILL *BECOME* HAPPY.

THAT IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR DOCTRINE HERE AT (LOL).

BUT IF YOU *DON'T* LAUGH ...

SMILE... AND *LAUGH*...!

POUR A GUFFAW INTO YOUR BARE AND SUFFERING SOUL...!

LET CHUCKLES COAT, SOOTHE, AND RELIEVE YOUR UPSET HEAD...!!

IF SMILING COULD MAKE YOU HAPPY, LIFE WOULD BE EASY!

pfft!

...THEN YOUR UNHAPPY LIFE WILL CONTINUE... UNTIL YOU DIE.

AND I CAN UNDER-STAND HOW YOU WOULD LOSE THE ABILITY TO LAUGH ...!!

SOCIETY IS TO BLAME! IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU WOULD BECOME ABJECT!

A TRUE VICTIM... OF *UNHAP-PINESS!*

WHO IS THIS ...?

...YOU'LL BE GRIN-NING AGAIN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!!!

BUT IT'S *ALL RIGHT!* IF YOU SIMPLY PUT ON THIS "SMILE MASK" INFUSED WITH MY POWER AND CORRECT YOURSELF...

I FOUND HIM LOST IN THOUGHT ON A PARK BENCH ON A *WEEK-DAY* AFTER-NOON.

SO I TOOK HIM HERE.

NOW YOU'LL BE ONE OF (LOL) TOO.

...THIS MASK WILL SAVE YOU.

WE JUST WANT YOU TO BE SMILING...

YOU...

HEY...

PLEASE REST ASSURED. WE'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE YOUR MONEY.

AND MOVING ON...

...I SEE THAT BOY BESIDE HIM DOESN'T SEEM TO BE SMILING EITHER ...!

...

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO SAY SOME-THING.

AND FIN-ALLY THIS GIRL.

NO RESIS-TANCE...

MY, MY. IT DOES SEEM ...

...YOU *WEREN'T* BROUGHT HERE BY A BELIEVER... WERE YOU?

AND *ALREADY* YOU HAVE THIS MANY BLIND ADHER-ENTS...?

...IT'S *SUSPI-CIOUS.*

IT ALMOST BEGGARS BELIEF... PLAINLY SPEAK-ING...

YOUR RELI-GIOUS GROUP, "(LOL)"...

...YOU SAY IT WAS FOUNDED JUST LAST MONTH ...?

AND I'M HERE TO INVESTIGATE THE NASTY RUMORS ABOUT YOU PEOPLE FOR AN ARTICLE...

...IN OUR SCHOOL NEWS-PAPER ...!

MY NAME IS MEZATO... I'M FROM THE SALT MIDDLE SCHOOL JOURNALISM CLUB, GRADE 8, CLASS I!

SHE SPEAKS WITHOUT FEAR. HER BRAVERY IS WONDERFUL.

ON HER OWN, SHE BARGED INTO A GROUP SHE FOUND SUSPICIOUS...

JUST IN MIDDLE SCHOOL... YET SHE SHOWS SUCH PROMISE!

THE MOOD IN THIS HALL... IT'S NOT NORMAL!

THAT YOU'RE USING MASS HYPNOSIS TO BRAINWASH PEOPLE... AND PLANT COMPULSIVE THOUGHTS IN THEM!

RUMORS?

THEN, HE WAS AN UNHAPPY PERSON. BUT NOW...

LOOK CAREFULLY AT THIS MAN WHOM WE COVERED WITH A MASK JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO.

...THAT I'M NOT A CROOK...

VERY WELL, THEN. I'LL GIVE YOU PROOF...

HA HA... HA HA HA...

HA... HA HA HA... HA HEE... HA...

WHOOSH

MOB AT:

50%

Example of a nice smile

EVERYONE, TODAY YOU GRADUATE FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... BUT I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST FOR JUNIOR HIGH...

...I'M SO GLAD I WAS ABLE TO BE YOUR TEACHER.

SNIFF... SNIFF...

LOOKING BACK, I HAVE NOTHING BUT FOND MEMORIES.

...SINCE IT'S THE LAST DAY OF CLASS, IF ANYONE HAS ANYTHING THEY'D LIKE TO SAY, RAISE YOUR HAND, AND SPEAK UP! IT CAN BE ANYTHING YOU LIKE!

AIZAWA?

ME!

I'LL NEVER FORGET WINNING THE TUG-OF-WAR AT THE TRACK MEET AS LONG AS I LIVE!

I WON'T FORGET THAT I LOST.

GOOD LUCK CLASS!

UCHIMURA?

ME!

ENDO HAD A CRUSH ON KATO!

YOU IDIOT! WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT ...?!

HEH, HEH...

きゃ

ha ha は は ha ha は は ha!

ME.

OH! KAGEYAMA WANTS TO SPEAK! HOW RARE!

HEE, HEE. EVERYONE BE SURE TO LISTEN!

GO AHEAD, KAGE-YAMA!

...UM, YES. CAN I GO TO THE TOILET ...?

CHAPTER 7: MOOD OF THE GROUP

THE TARGET OF MY CURRENT INVESTIGATION IS "(LOL)," A NEW RELIGIOUS GROUP THAT'S STARTED RECRUITING PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN SEASONING CITY!

LOL

I, ICHI MEZATO (AGE 14) OF THE SALT MIDDLE SCHOOL JOURNALISM CLUB, HAVE GONE UNDERCOVER TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR AN ARTICLE!

WHAT THE...

...I'M NOT HAVING ANY FUN... BUT I'M LAUGHING. HA HA.

H-HUH... HOW WEIRD...

BUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THEM... IS...

yay!

HOW LOVELY!

WONDERFUL!

YOU'LL FIND A JOB NOW!

THAT IS *MUCH* BET-TER...!

NOW YOU HAVE ES-CAPED THE CHAINS OF UNHAP-PINESS...!

WELL, GOOD FOR YOU!

WHAT A *NICE* SMILE!

grin!

HEE HEE HAH HAH HAH! AH HAH HAH HAH HAH! THIS FEELS GOOD! HAH HAH HAH HAH...!

HEH-HEH... W-WELL... NOT BAD, I GUESS... HEE HEE HEE!

LIKE OUR LORD SAYS...

...HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SMILE ...?

stare

BUT... WHY IS HE LAUGH-ING...?

DO YOU STILL THINK I AM A FRAUD ...?

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW, YOUNG LADY...?

HE HAS TRULY... ACHIEV-ED HAPPI-NESS.

MAYBE MY BEST OPTION IS TO BACK OFF FOR NOW AND LATER ON, INVESTIGATE FURTHER...

SOME-THING STRANGE IS GOING ON INSIDE THIS PLACE...

...BUT IT'S STILL WEIRD ...!

...AND YES, LAUGHTER COULD BE THERAPEUTIC FOR ONE'S HEART...

IT'S NOT THAT THEY'RE DOING ANYTHING WRONG...

hurray!

hurray!

SO... I'VE GOT NOTH-ING TO EX-POSE.

I'LL BE LEAVING NOW...

IT LOOKS LIKE LAUGHING ALONE MAYBE CAN... PLACATE ONE'S EMO-TIONS.

WELL... YOU'VE ALL MADE ME THINK.

I...I'M SORRY.

I WON'T WRITE ABOUT YOU IN OUR PAPER.

YOU NEED NOT APOLO-GIZE TO US... BUT YOU SHOULD SHOW SOME GOOD FAITH.

NOW, WHAT IS THE REA-SON-ABLE THING TO DO? YOU SEEM SMART...

THAT WILL NOT DO.

SUCH NEWS WILL LEAD TO UNHAPPI-NESS-- NOT JUST FOR THE PUBLIC... BUT FOR YOU.

YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY AFTER ACCUSING US OF *FALSE-HOODS ...!*

AND IF WE JUST LET YOU LEAVE... IT WILL MEAN UNHAPPI-NESS FOR *US!!!*

YOUR ROLE *SHOULD* HAVE BEEN TO OBSERVE AND BE UNINVOLVED! BUT YOU CAME INTO (LOL) WITH AN *AGENDA!* TO CREATE MISCHIEF... AND CAST DOUBT UPON OUR SMILES!!

SO YOU'LL NEITHER COMDEMN NOR AFFIRM US. THAT'S *NEUTRAL-ITY...*

...BUT WHAT A JOURNAL-IST SHOULD HAVE IS *OBJEC-TIVITY...!*

...UNTIL YOU LAUGH.

SO WE WILL NOT LET YOU LEAVE...

NO! I CAN'T LAUGH!

I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO MYSELF!

OH, NO. A PHONY SMILE IS FINE.

HAPPINESS IS HARD TO GET A GRIP ON.

THEREFORE, IT STARTS FROM THE FACE, RATHER THAN THE HEART.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE LAUGHING.

...!!

IF I SMILED FOR YOU NOW...IT WOULD BE PHONY!

WOULDN'T THAT BE EVEN RUDER TOWARDS YOU...?!

HEY...!

WAIT ...!

whoompf!

YOU NEED ONLY PUT ON A MASK.

LORD DIMPLE'S POWER WILL FIX THINGS FOR YOU.

MY MOUTH IS MOVING OF ITS OWN WILL...

WHAT THE... I'M... SMILING...

...!

WHAT THE HECK ...?

Wshh

OH HO! ISN'T THIS THE MOST WONDERFUL SMILE ...?

YOU SEE NOW THE POTENTIAL YOU HAD WITHIN YOU... TO BE HAPPY!

CONGRATS!

LOOK AT YOU!

GEE, I...

WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

DAZZLING!

RADIANT!

NOW SHE'LL DEFINITELY WRITE A POSITIVE ARTICLE ...

I...

...SOMEBODY HELP ME...!

IT'S A LIE...

WHAT'S THIS I FEEL...? I'M SMILING ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE...I FEEL KINDA WARM INSIDE...

BUT I ACTUALLY DON'T WANT TO SMILE!! I'M BEING BRAINWASHED...!

UM...

...PARDON ME.

...THIS HAS ALL BEEN ABOUT "SMILING" AND "HAPPINESS," BUT NOTHING ABOUT "WHETHER YOU'RE ATTRACTIVE OR NOT."

CAN I LEAVE NOW ...?

MOB ...!

I'M NOT...

...ALL THAT TROU-BLED, ACTU-ALLY.

HE WAS ON HIS WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL WITH A TROUBLED LOOK ON HIS FACE, SO I BROUGHT HIM HERE.

IT SEEMS TO BE HIS LOVE LIFE.

...OF THE SMILE MASK NOT WORK ON HIM ...?!

DOES THE POWER ...

HE'S NOT SMIL-ING ...?!

...?!

...I MUST RE-MOVE THE UN-STABLE FACTOR ...

...I CAN'T SIMPLY DISMISS IT...

EVEN IF SUCH PEOPLE EXIST...

USE THIS OPPOR-TUNITY TO CHANGE YOUR-SELF!

THOSE WHO DON'T SMILE LOSE OUT ON HALF OF LIFE...!

BY SMILING AND LAUGHING WITH US ALL HERE, YOUR EMOTIONS CAN BECOME ROSY AND CLEAR...!

...BOY, WAIT! DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE OUT YOUR DAYS WITH THAT LIFELESS FACE?

GUH ...!

...MY POINT WASN'T ABOUT **LOSS**...!

MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT PEOPLE WHO DON'T *SMOKE* LOSE OUT ON HALF OF LIFE.

WHAT PEOPLE CONSIDER A LOSS DEPENDS ON THE PERSON.

krackle krackle krackle krackle krackle krackle krackle krackle krackle krackle

(LOL) IS THE STARTING POINT FOR MAKING ALL OF MANKIND MY FOLLOW-ERS...!

I'M NOT GOING TO GET TRIPPED UP BY THIS MERE CHILD...!!

WELL... HOW ABOUT WE PLAY A GAME THEN ...?

A SIMPLE STARING CONTEST. WHOEVER LAUGHS, LOSES.

WE WOULD NEVER TRY TO FORCE YOU TO JOIN US.

WE MERELY WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW WONDER-FUL LAUGH-TER IS.

WHOEVER LAUGHS AND SPITS THEIR MILK OUT FIRST LOSES. WHAT DO YOU SAY...?

YOU'LL JUST STARE OFF AGAINST THREE OF MY EXECUTIVES. EACH OF YOU KEEPS MILK IN YOUR MOUTH, AND THEN YOU STARE INTO EACH OTHER'S FACES.

...IT'S A TRAP!

MOB... DON'T DO IT...

...IDIOT! WHY IS HE ACCEPT-ING THE CHAL-LENGE ?!

MOB LIKED MILK, SO HE DID IT.

YOU BOYS KNOW THE RULES OF A STARIN' CONTEST, RIGHT...?

GET SET...

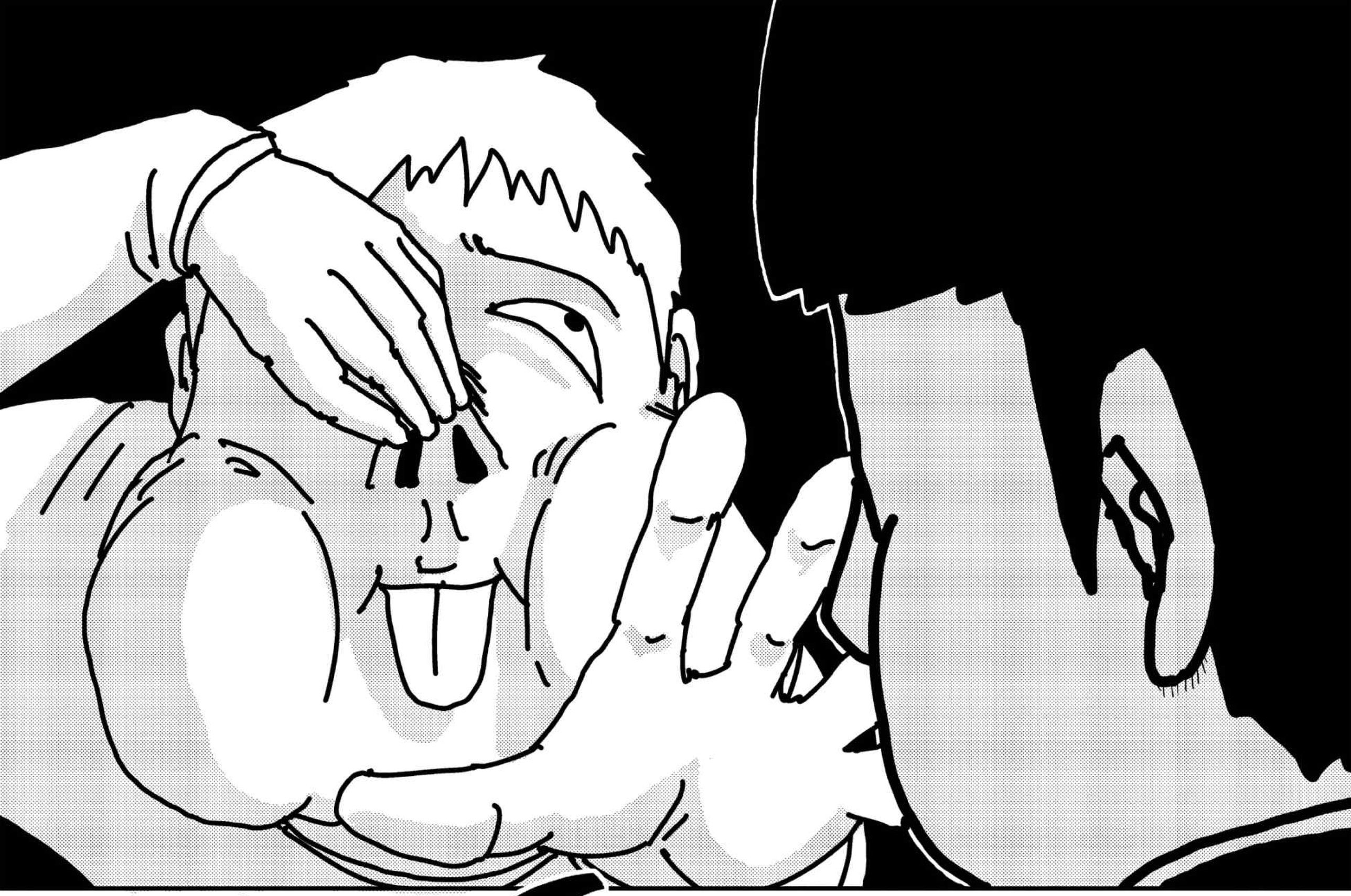
READY ...

klak

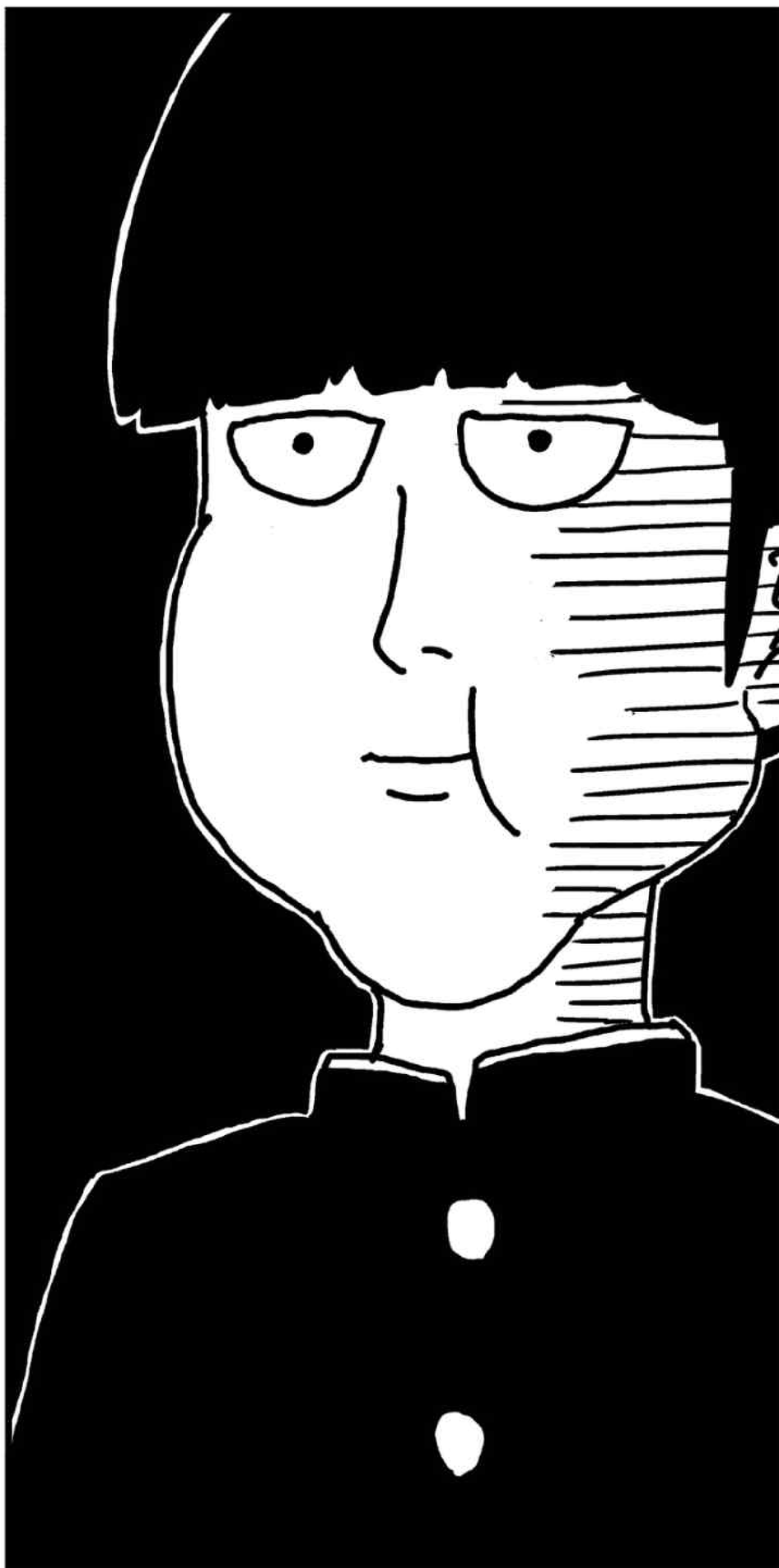
gulp

...GO !!!

WHEN I SAY GO, EACH MAN TAKES A MOUTFUL OF MILK AND HOLDS IT! IF YOU LAUGH, YOU'RE OUT!



BUT WHY ...?!



LORD DIMPLE SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED THIS-- (LOL)'S EXECUTIVES HAD GONE THROUGH STRICT TRAINING TO MAINTAIN MIRTH...

DIMPLE'S PLAN TO GET MOB TO LAUGH FAILED SPECTACULARLY.

splrrrrtttt

SO EVEN IN A SITUATION NOT PARTICULARLY FUNNY (SUCH AS THIS), THEY COULDN'T HELP BUT BE THE FIRST TO LAUGH.

BUT, NO. BEING EXPRESSIONLESS SINCE HE WAS LITTLE SERVED MOB WELL IN THIS CONTEST. WITHOUT ANY EFFORT, HE WON THREE MATCHES IN A ROW.

tttSPLKKK

CHAL-LENGE ME... LORD DIMPLE... PERSON-ALLY!!

dooooh!

TAKE ME ON...

grrrrrn!

I WON, SO I'LL BE LEAVING.

W-WAIT ...!

WE FINALLY GET THE CHANCE TO BEHOLD SOME TOP CLASS SMILING STRENGTH!

IT'S STILL NOT OVER AFTER BEATING THREE OF THEM ...?

THAT'S OUR LORD ...!

COOL! LORD DIMPLE IS GOING TO SHOW HIS TRUE POWER TO THAT EXPRES-SIONLESS KID...!

READY...

...GO !!!

I WILL NOT YIELD VICTORY ...!

I SWEAR I'LL MAKE HIM SPIT THAT MILK!

IN THAT MOMENT...

...THE MUSCLES IN MOB'S FACE...

...BECAME CONTORTED.

CLEARLY THERE WAS...

...SOME-THING WRONG...

...WITH THE MILK.

...?!!

...LAUGHED!!!

Point

HA, HA...! YOU...

HE LAUGHED!

HE SPIT THE MILK!

HE DID!

HE DID!

HAIL OUR LORD!

HE'S SAVED AN-OTHER SOUL!!

THAT KID WHO WOULDN'T EVEN SMILE...HE MADE HIM LAUGH...!

BEHOLD... THE POWER OF LORD DIMPLE ...!!

HAW! HAW! HAW! HAW!

HEH HEH!

HA HA HA HA HA!

HE LAUGHED! IT'S SO FUNNY!!

MOB...

...I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF ANY-MORE...! I'M STARTING TO ENJOY IT...

ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha

LAUGH.

I.
DIDN'T.

AAAA

hüshh wsshh

H-HUH ...?

WHAT THE ...?

EH ...?

...MY SMILE IS GONE.

SHIT!

WHY WAS I EVEN LAUGH-ING...?

WASN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE SOME-THING FUN AROUND HERE...?

HUH. ME TOO.

ME TOO.

SEEING THAT KID... SUD-DENLY BUMS ME OUT.

eeeeee

glow

THAT'S RIGHT ...!

THERE'S SOMETHING SO FUN AROUND HERE...!

WWW

AH HA HA HA HA!

WW

eeee

HOW DID YOU ...?

YOU... JUST NOW...

I WONDER WHY HE WON'T GO ALONG...?

BUT THAT KID'S KINDA STUB-BORN.

SO BE IT. TIME FOR A STRON-GER TECH-NIQUE.

BUT... WHY **CAN'T** I MAKE HIM LAUGH...?

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD CANCEL OUT...

...MY HYPNO-WAVES.

mmm ゴ mmm ゴ mmm ゴ mmm ゴ mmm ゴ mmm ゴ

ONLY WE HERE IN THIS PLACE ARE CAPABLE OF SAVING HIM...!

BUT WE CAN'T *LEAVE* HIM SO UNHAPPY ...!

I TRIED SO HARD TO SAVE HIM... BUT STILL HE COULD NOT LAUGH !

THE POOR THING! A PER-SON-ALITY SO ABJECT, IT RE-PULSED MY SMILE POWER ...!

LET'S PUT ALL OUR POWER TOGETHER... AND RESCUE THE SMILE THAT WE *KNOW* IS TRAPPED INSIDE HIM...!

EVERY-ONE! PLEASE LOOK...

...AT THIS *PITI-FUL* BOY!!

yay!

WE WILL FORCE HIM TO UNDER-GO CORRECTIVE SMILING ...!

WE MUST DO THIS TO SAVE HIM.

yay!

yeah!

yeah!

yay!

PLEASE SEIZE HIM... GENTLY!

yay!

yeah!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...

I...

I WILL NOW SHOW YOU...

...MY TRUE, DIVINE POWER.

MOB AT:

82%

賞味期限
おいしくない牛乳
disgusting milk

わい yayy!

HA! HA! HA! LAUGH ALONG WITH US!

KIDS WITH SHINING FACES HAVE MORE FRIENDS TOO!

A SMILE MAKES LIFE LOVELY!

わい yayy!

SMILE AND LAUGH! C'MON! HAVE SOME FUN!

WA HAHA HAHA! YEAH! HAVE FUN WITH US!

わい yayy!

CHAPTER 8: BREAKDOWN

HAD A HARD LIFE? NO NEED TO WORRY... AS LONG AS YOU LAUGH!

HEY, HEY! HEE HEE HEE! WHY WON'T YOU LAUGH ...?

LAUGH ALONG WITH US! YOU'LL LOOK GOOD! YOU'LL FEEL GOOD!!

HO HO HO! DON'T WE LOOK HAPPY TO YOU ...?

...YOU WON'T DO WELL IN THE LONG LIFE AHEAD OF YOU IF YOU'RE LIKE THIS...

...A POLITE SMILE IS THE SIMPLEST AND BEST MEANS OF STIMULATING SMOOTH INTERACTION BETWEEN PEOPLE!

I THINK YOU'RE BEING DELIBER-ATELY OBTUSE AND ARGUMEN-TATIVE.

YOU *COULD* JUST SMILE TO BE POLITE, YOU KNOW.

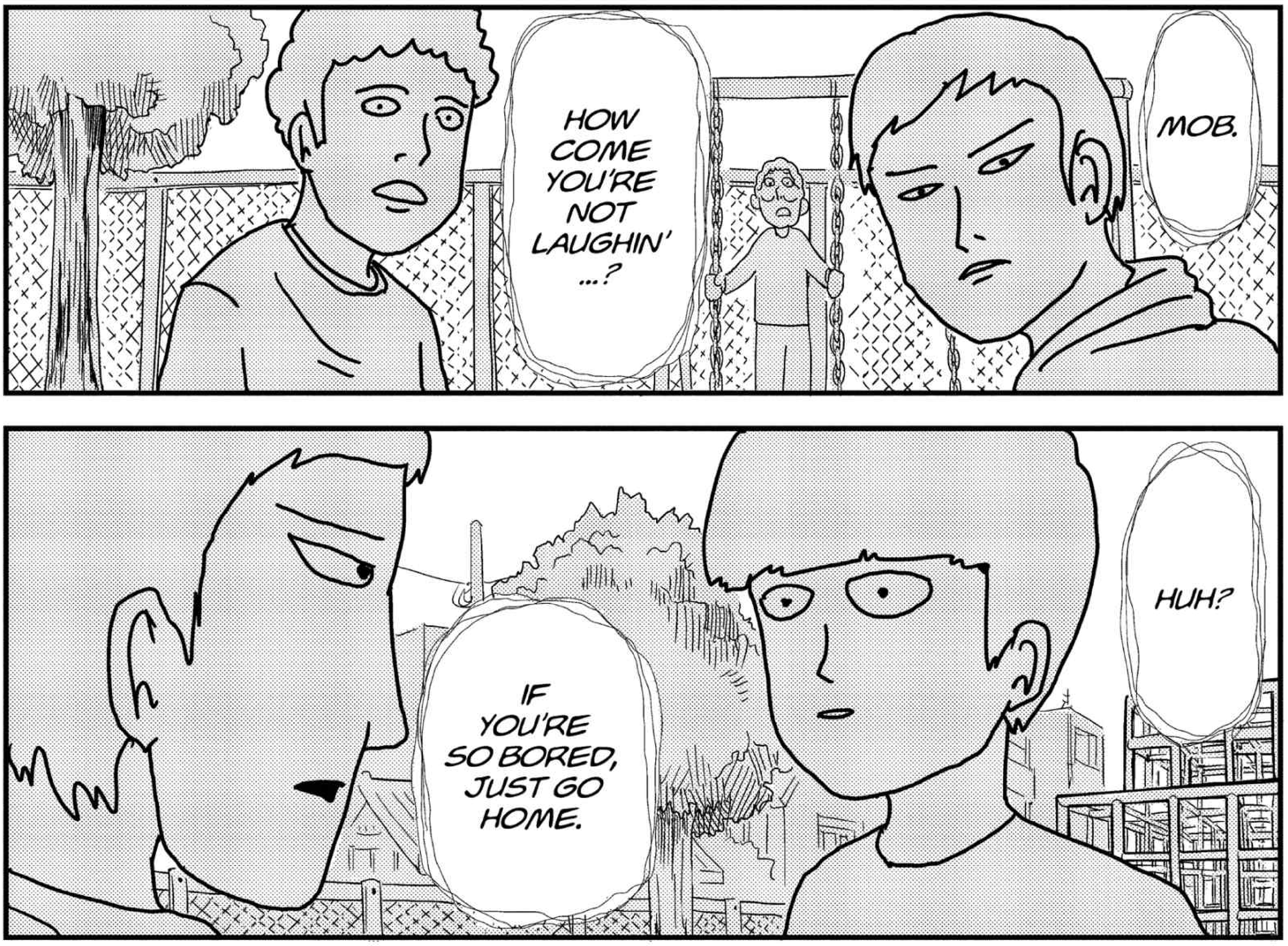
ARE YOU GOING TO DISDAIN THEIR KINDNESS ...?

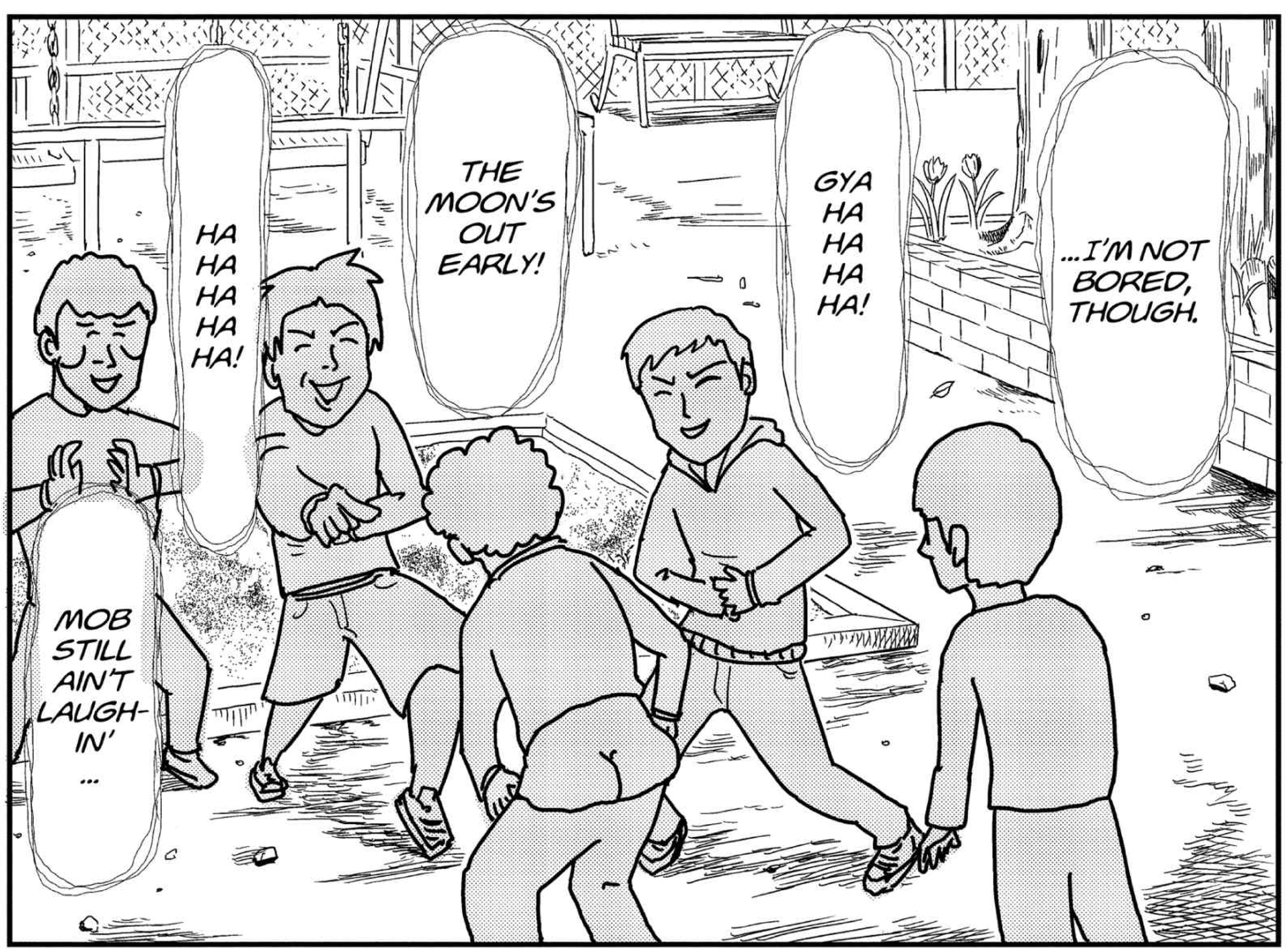
COME, COME, SEE HOW EVERYONE IS GREETING YOU WITH THEIR SMILES.

READ THE ROOM.

NO ONE HERE IS YOUR ENEMY.

JUST WHAT IS IT YOU'RE FIGHTING AGAINST ...?


HOW COME YOU'RE NOT LAUGHIN' ...?
MOB.
IF YOU'RE SO BORED, JUST GO HOME.
HUH?


HA HA HA HA HA!
THE MOON'S OUT EARLY!
GYA HA HA HA HA!
...I'M NOT BORED, THOUGH.
MOB STILL AIN'T LAUGH-IN' ...

TSUBOMI...?

MOB...

"...YOU NEED TO LEARN TO READ THE ROOM."

shiiiinngg!

...NOW!

LAUGH !!

THAT SAME WONDROUS POWER INSIDE THE SMILE MASK...BUT NOW THAT BOY WILL RECEIVE IT DIRECT FROM HIS HAND...!

HIS SMILE WILL BE UPLIFTED... AND HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE LAND OF HAPPI-NESS!!

88%

eeee

HEE HEE HEE !

HA, HA! IT'S TRUE. HOW WEIRD ...

HUH? NOW LORD DIMPLE'S NOT SMILING! HA, HA...

...COULD MY POWER... NOT BE WORKING ...?!

YOU *STILL* WON'T ...?

WHY? WHY WON'T YOUR FACE CHANGE ...?

WHAT ARE YOU? A *CORPSE* ...?

93%

mrgghh!

BOY...

SMILE...!!!

SMILE!

...HE'S GOT POWERS TOO.

...SMILE FOR SHOW.

I CAN'T...

NOW I UNDER-STAND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...

96%

BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE I HAVE ANY ILL WILL TOWARDS YOU.

I'VE JUST BEEN THIS WAY SINCE I WAS BORN.

EVEN YOUR POWER CAN'T MAKE ME SMILE.

IT'S THAT I CAN'T... EVEN IF I WANTED TO.

IT'S NOT THAT I HATE POLITE SMILES.

BUT I'M NOT GOOD AT GOING WITH THE FLOW.

I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL HAPPY.

98%

SO YOU HAVE NO EMOTIONS, BOY...?

HA!

...IF YOU CAN'T GO WITH THE FLOW, THEN WHAT IF THE GIRL YOU LIKE SMILES? YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SMILE BACK THEN, WILL YOU...?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE HAVING ROMANTIC TROUBLES...

WHEN PEOPLE AROUND YOU ARE HAVING FUN, *YOU* FEEL LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, TOO.

THE OPPOSITE IS ALSO TRUE. BOTH JOY AND AGGRAVATION ARE INFECTIOUS.

THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS BEFORE YOU WHO LAUGHED VERY LITTLE, BUT BY *FORCING* THEM TO LAUGH...

...AFTERWARDS, THEY UNDERSTOOD.

YOU CAN'T BE MOVED WITH THEM.

YOU CAN'T CRY WITH THEM.

BUT YOU CAN'T WORK WITH THAT.

EMOTIONS ARE A SYSTEM WHICH ACTS IN RESPONSE TO *OTHER PEOPLE.*

AND THEN AFTER THAT...YOU WILL BE ALONE FOREVER.

WHAT WOULD SUIT YOU IS TO END YOUR YOUTH SHUT AWAY IN YOUR ROOM.

LAUGH!

NOW THINK OF THAT ...

...I'LL GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE.

ケラケラ heh heh

ニヤニヤ hyuk hyuk

わはは wa-ha-ha

はは ha ha

...TO MAKE ME LAUGH.

USE YOUR POWER...

...!

THAT POWER OF HIS...! AGAIN ...!

freeze ピタッ

...IS JUST ONE BAD ACTOR LIKE THIS KID GOING TO BRING DOWN THE IRON WALLS OF (LOL)'S MASS PSY-CHOLOGY ...?!

MY POWER WAS PERME-ATING THIS HALL... BUT ITS FLOW HAS BEEN INTER-RUPTED ...

...THE ATMO-SPHERE IN THIS ROOM WHERE I AM ABOUT TO BECOME A GOD...!

THE ATMO-SPHERE ...

...BUT YOU'RE IN MY WAY... BOY.

I THOUGHT I HAD CHOSEN THE MOST PEACEFUL RELIGIOUS FORM...ONE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE NO BLOOD-SHED...

...I SEE. SO THERE ARE OTHER POWERS LIKE MINE...

...IN THIS WORLD.

THANK GOOD-NESS. SO YOU'RE NOT A PERSON.

...I MUST WIPE OUT ANY OUTSIDERS WHO DISTURB THE ORDER OF THIS CIRCLE!

TO BECOME A GOD...

THANK GOODNESS THAT THE ONE WHO SAID SOME-THING AS SCARY AS "READ THE ROOM"...

...IS AN EVIL SPIRIT.

...WE MUST NOT LET HIM LEAVE HERE ALIVE !!!

HE'S COM-MANDING THEM.

MY FAITH-FUL...!!

shhh

fwump

fwump

fwump

fwump

"MOB...YOU SHOULD READ THE ROOM."

...IS A SUPER-POWER.

THE ABILITY TO CAUSE PHENOMENA BEYOND HUMAN UNDER-STANDING...

THEY HAVE NO FIXED FORM.

SUPER-HUMANS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.

...BUT THERE IS NO END OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS FROM THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN THEM.

THESE STRANGE ABILITIES REMAIN UNEX-PLAINED BY SCIENCE...

...A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CALLED "MOB" BY THOSE AROUND HIM.

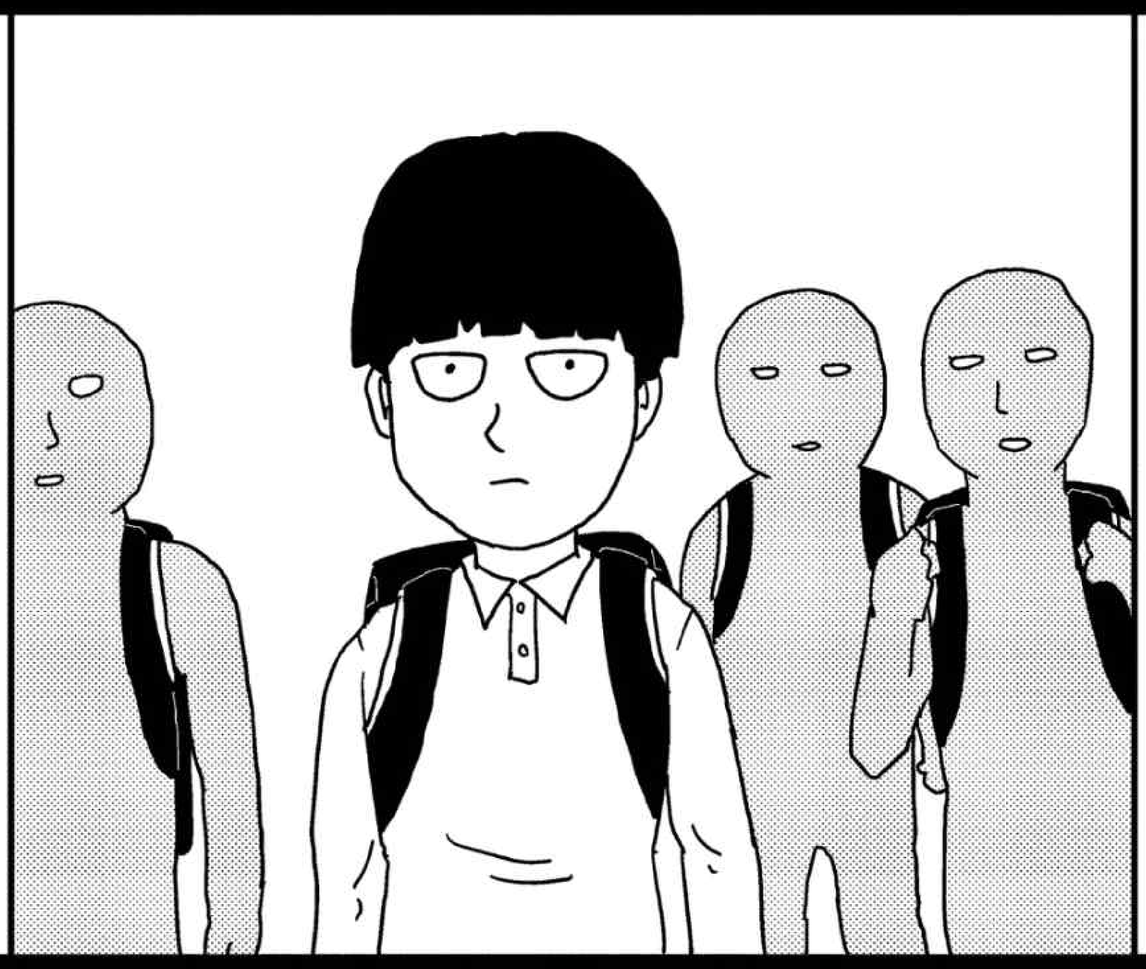
BUT THERE WAS A REAL SUPER-HUMAN IN THIS ROOM...

SOME WORK IN SECRET.

SOME APPEAR OPENLY IN THE MEDIA.

SOME ARE FAKE.

AND AS HE GREW OLDER, HE GRADUALLY UNDERSTOOD WHY... BECOMING AWARE THE POWERS HE HID WERE DANGEROUS.



THE NICKNAME DIDN'T MEAN HE WAS VIOLENT...BUT THAT HE WAS JUST PART OF THE CROWD. IN FACT HE HAD POWERFUL ABILITIES... BUT HE SUBCON-SCIOUSLY AVOIDED DISPLAYING THEM.

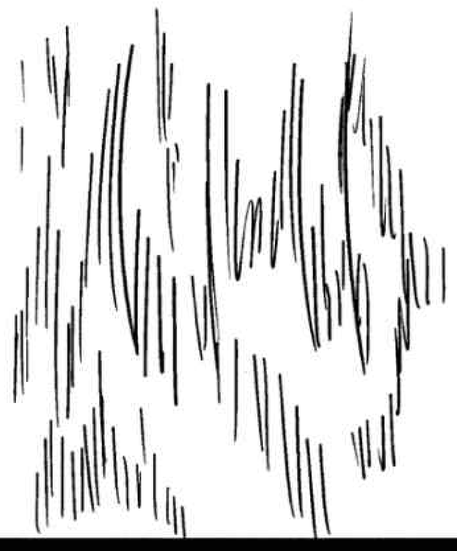
HE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT BY HIDING HIS POWERS FROM THE WORLD, HE HAD GIVEN HIMSELF A COMPLEX.

UNABLE TO "DO AS HE PLEASED" OR "WHATEVER HE FELT LIKE," HE KEPT THE BRAKES ON HIS EMOTIONS CONSTANTLY.

A TORRENT, A STORM OF EMOTION WAS AT LONG LAST SURGING PAST THE BARRIERS.

THAT LIMIT HAD NOW COME.

THAT EMOTION BEING...



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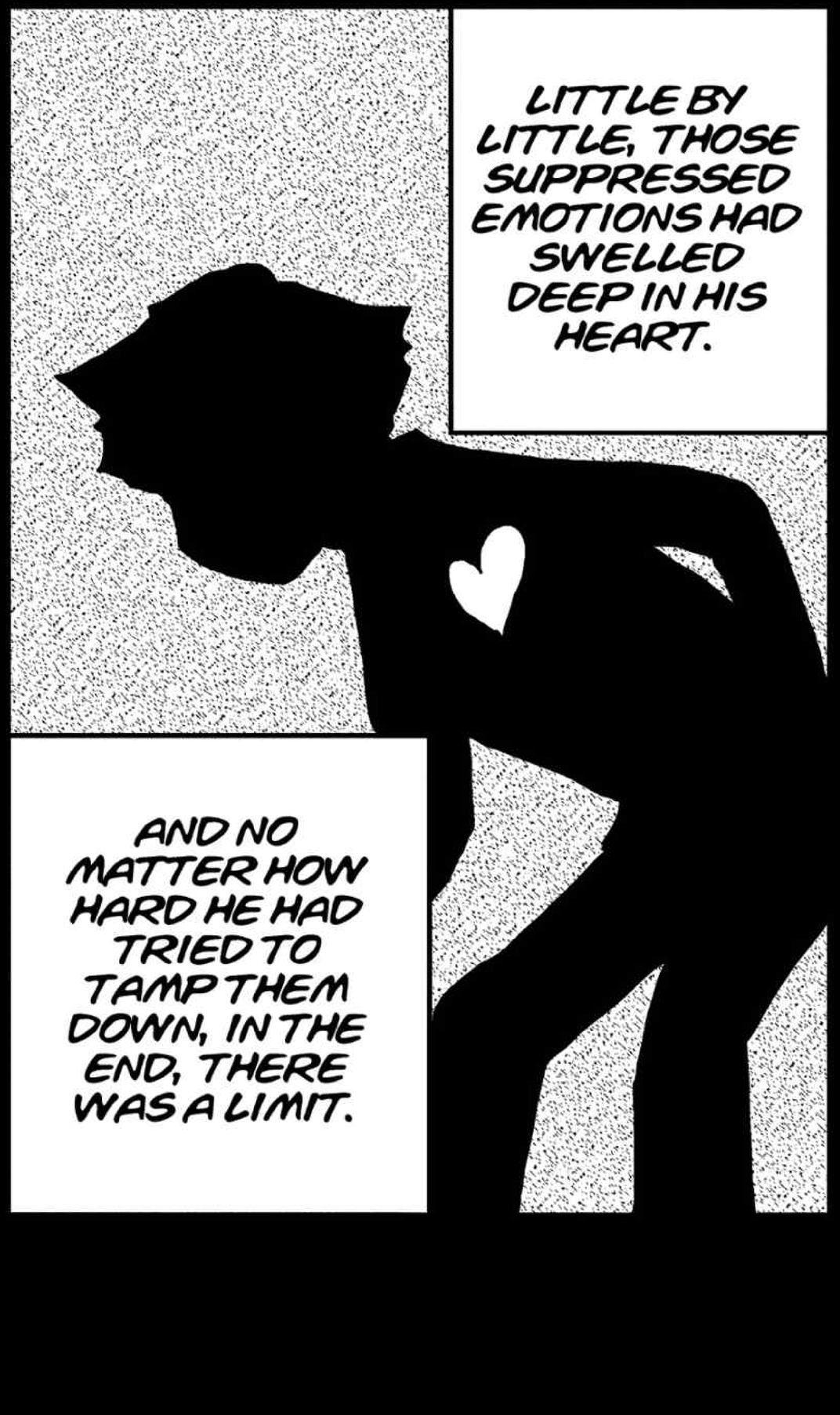
LITTLE BY LITTLE, THOSE SUPPRESSED EMOTIONS HAD SWELLED DEEP IN HIS HEART.



AND NO MATTER HOW HARD HE HAD TRIED TO TAMP THEM DOWN, IN THE END, THERE WAS A LIMIT.

...RAGE.

HEH HEH HEH... NO WONDER THE POWER OF THE SMILE MASK DIDN'T WORK ON YOU.

rrmb

A SUPER-HUMAN POWER OF THIS LEVEL...!

...!!!

rrmb

rrmb

rrmb

...ALL I NEED IS *TWO* SECONDS TO WIPE YOU OUT, BOY...!!

...*SO!* YOU CAN USE A LITTLE BIT OF POWER... AND NOW YOU THINK YOU CAN PRESS YOUR LUCK!

TOP-LEVEL EVIL SPIRIT

DIMPLE

doom!

ウィーン

VVSSSSHHHHH

SHOULDN'T TRY TO PRETEND THEY GET ANGRY LIKE REAL PEOPLE...!!

EMOTION-LESS CATTLE SUCH AS YOURSELF...

shoooom

WANT TO TRY *CRYING* NEXT...?!

whoosh

stumble

...?!

FLASHY!

SKKRSH

HO, HO...!

SCRRGH!

krik krak krak krik ... krak krik krik krak krik

WELL, THIS IS BAD...

IT KIND OF MAKES ME SAD THAT I MUST USE MY FULL SUPERNATURAL POWER AGAINST A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLER...

...HEH! YOU MAY BE THE REAL THING, PUNK...BUT YOU'VE MET ME-- LORD DIMPLE-- TOO SOON.

...IT'S GOING TO BE NOTHING BUT MISERY FOR YOU! SO BETTER YOU DIE HERE AND NOW...!!

#1 E WHOOM!

BUT REALLY, THIS IS FOR THE BEST. IMAGINE GOING THROUGH LIFE WITH SUCH POWERS, BUT SUCH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE...

FWAMM

WHAT THE...?!

?!

FWAMM

ドドド

HERE. AS YOU HAVE REQUESTED...

...THESE ARE MY EMOTIONS.

は hahh?

は hahh?

は hahh?

A-ARE YOU SOME KIND OF MONSTER ...?

...I DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH YOU...

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GIVE IN TO THEM.

...BUT TRY THIS...

YES! DIRECT HIT!

...WRAITHER BEAM!!

...THE WINNER!

YOU CAN'T BEAT ME WITH STRENGTH ALONE...!

IT'S THE NUMBER OF BLOODBATHS SURVIVED THAT WILL DETERMINE...

I'M THE WORST.

トン tap

...YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO "READ A ROOM" ...?

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TOP SHELF SOCIAL SKILLS THERE. YOU DON'T HAVE A HOPE, MOB.

THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF SPIRITS AT ALL.

Spirits & such

ANYWAY, I WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU'D GONE HOME BY NOW.

READING A ROOM ONLY COMES TO THOSE WITH COMMON SENSE AND EXPERIENCE. BUT YOU DEFY COMMON SENSE, AND...

...HEY, NO NEED TO LOOK SO DOWN.

WELL. SPIRITS ARE LIKE MIGRATORY BIRDS, Y'KNOW. THEY MOVE IN GROUPS...

...AND THEN THEY POOP ON YOU.

munch munch

IF BUSINESS STAYS THIS DEAD...OR SHOULD I SAY *ALIVE*... WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ...?

SAY...

YOU ARE PRETTY SERIOUS TODAY.

...

HAH! HOW RARE! SO YOU HOOKED UP WITH SOME CLASS-MATES HAVING A GOOD TIME, HUH!

THAT'S GOTTA HURT!

...BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO WITH THE FLOW...I RUINED THE MOOD OF SOME PEOPLE WHO SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE HAVING FUN.

I FEEL LIKE I DID SOME-THING REALLY BAD.

...BECAUSE OF ME, THAT GROUP IS FINISHED...THEY ALL LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE ENJOYING THEMSEVES AND LAUGHING...AND I ERASED ALL THAT.

BUT... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

THINK ABOUT IT. WHY DO YOU NEED TO BE LIKE THEM...?

THE PROTAG-ONIST IN *YOUR* LIFE IS ***YOU.*** RIGHT, MOB...?

SO...

...TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.

BE-CAUSE YOUR INABILITY TO READ A ROOM IS DE-STRUC-TIVE.

...

THEY WERE TARGETING AWKWARD PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SMILE UNLESS THEY GO TO THE MEETINGS.

BUT THEN THEY ONLY BECOME LESS AND LESS ABLE TO SMILE OUTSIDE THE MEETING... SO THEY'RE UNHAPPY AGAIN...

BEING DELUDED INTO LAUGHING IN A BASEMENT IS ONE THING. BUT THAT KIND OF UNNATURAL HAPPINESS ISN'T GOING TO FLY IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

...TEXTBOOK MIND CONTROL.

YOU CAN HARDLY CALL THAT A RELIGION.

AND THE LEADER'S ATTEMPT TO HYPNOTIZE YOU *PERSONALLY* HAD NO EFFECT... BECAUSE YOU'RE ALSO A *SUPER-HUMAN.*

BUT THE CON HAD NO EFFECT ON YOU AS A *HUMAN,* WITH YOUR HYPER-INABILITY TO READ A ROOM.

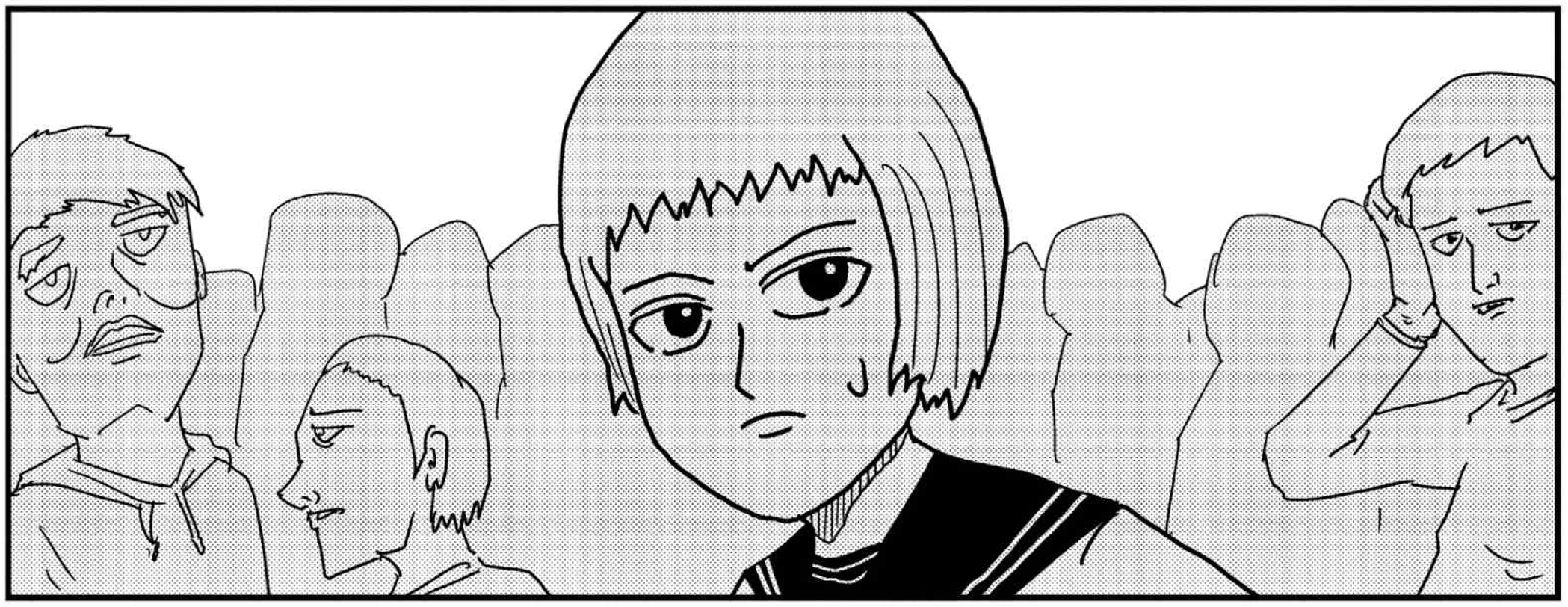
...SO THEY RETURN. THAT'S NOT "SALVATION." THAT'S JUST MAKING PEOPLE **DEPENDENT.**

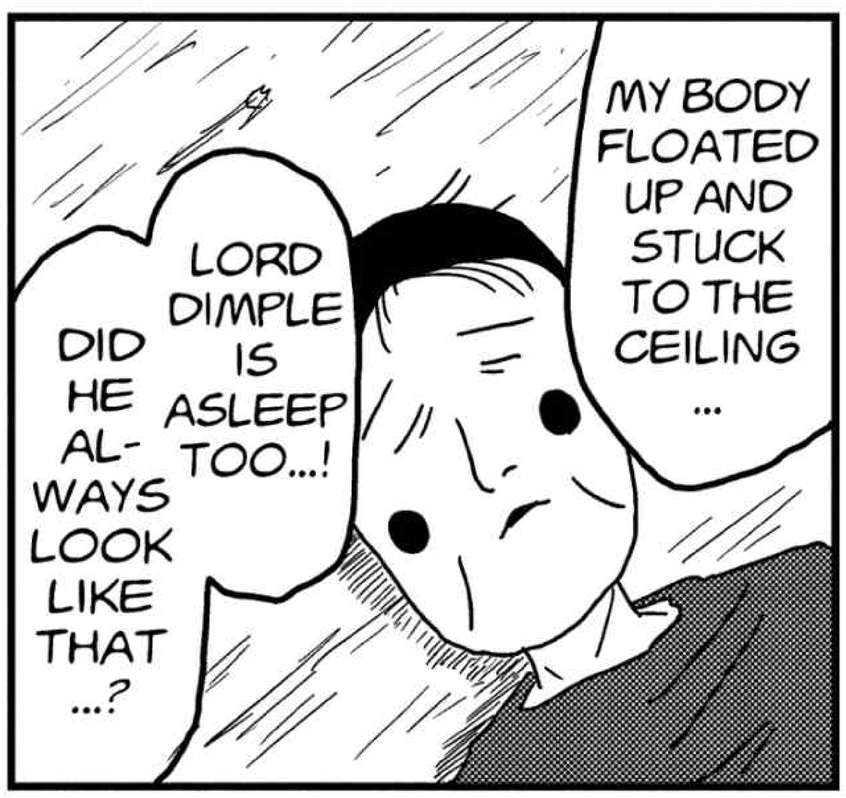
CON MEN OFTEN USE GROUP PSYCHOLOGY AS A METHOD.

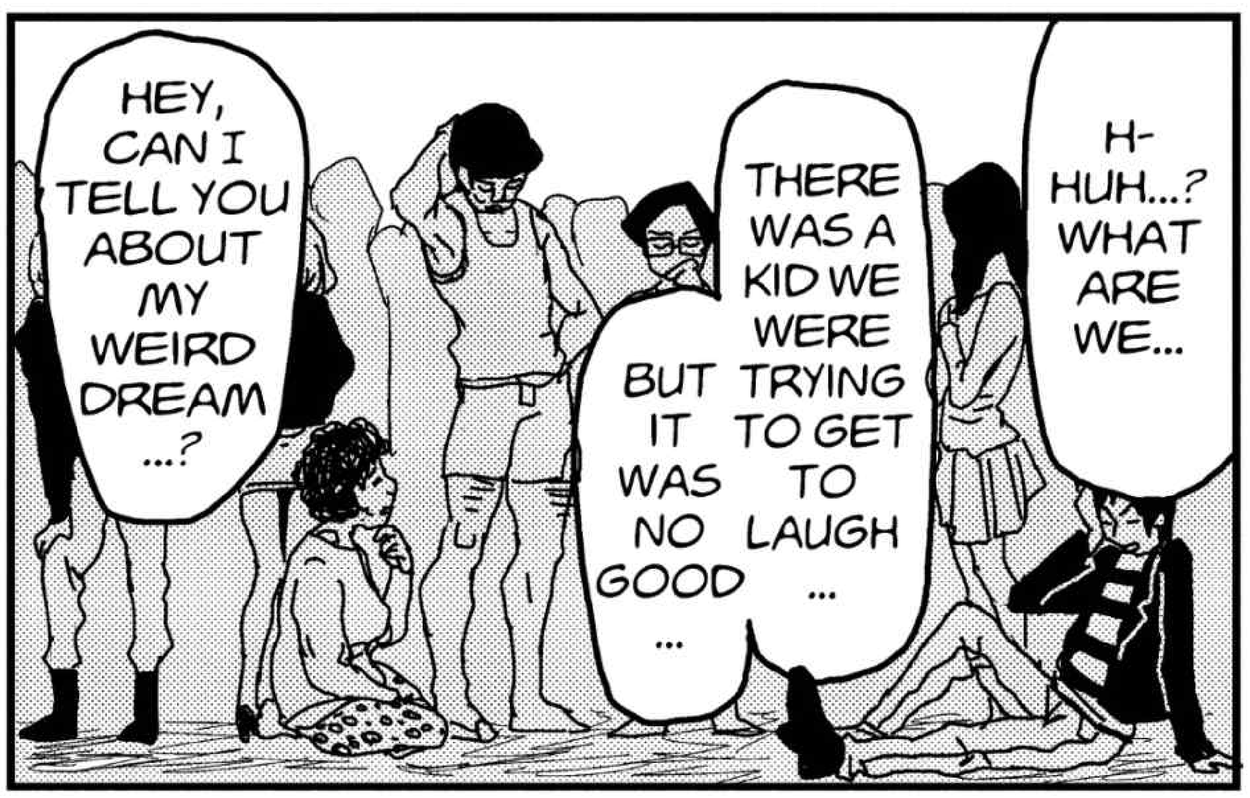
...THAT ONLY YOU COULD HAVE SAVED.

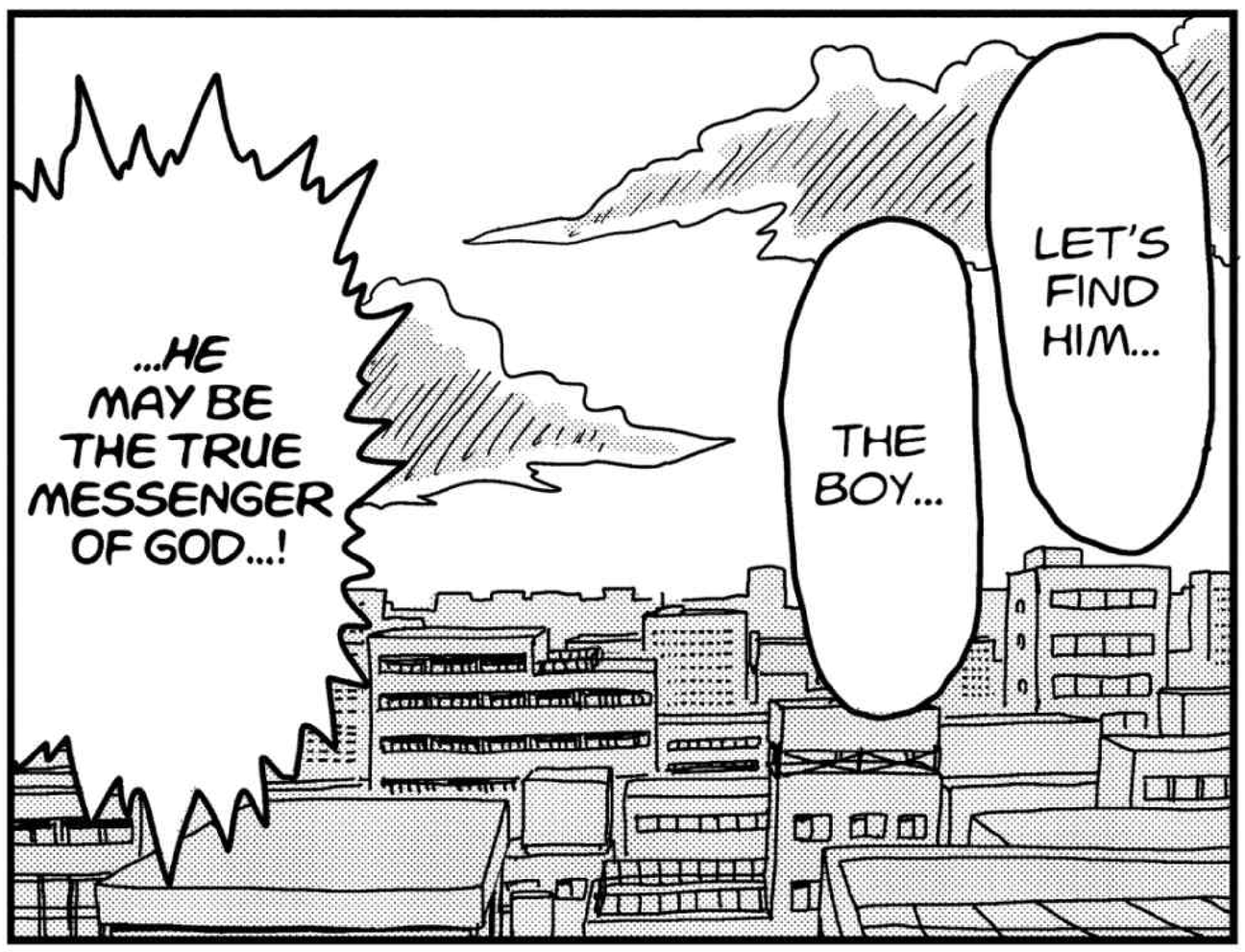
0%

IN OTHER WORDS, MOB, TODAY YOU HAPPENED TO SAVE SOME PEOPLE...

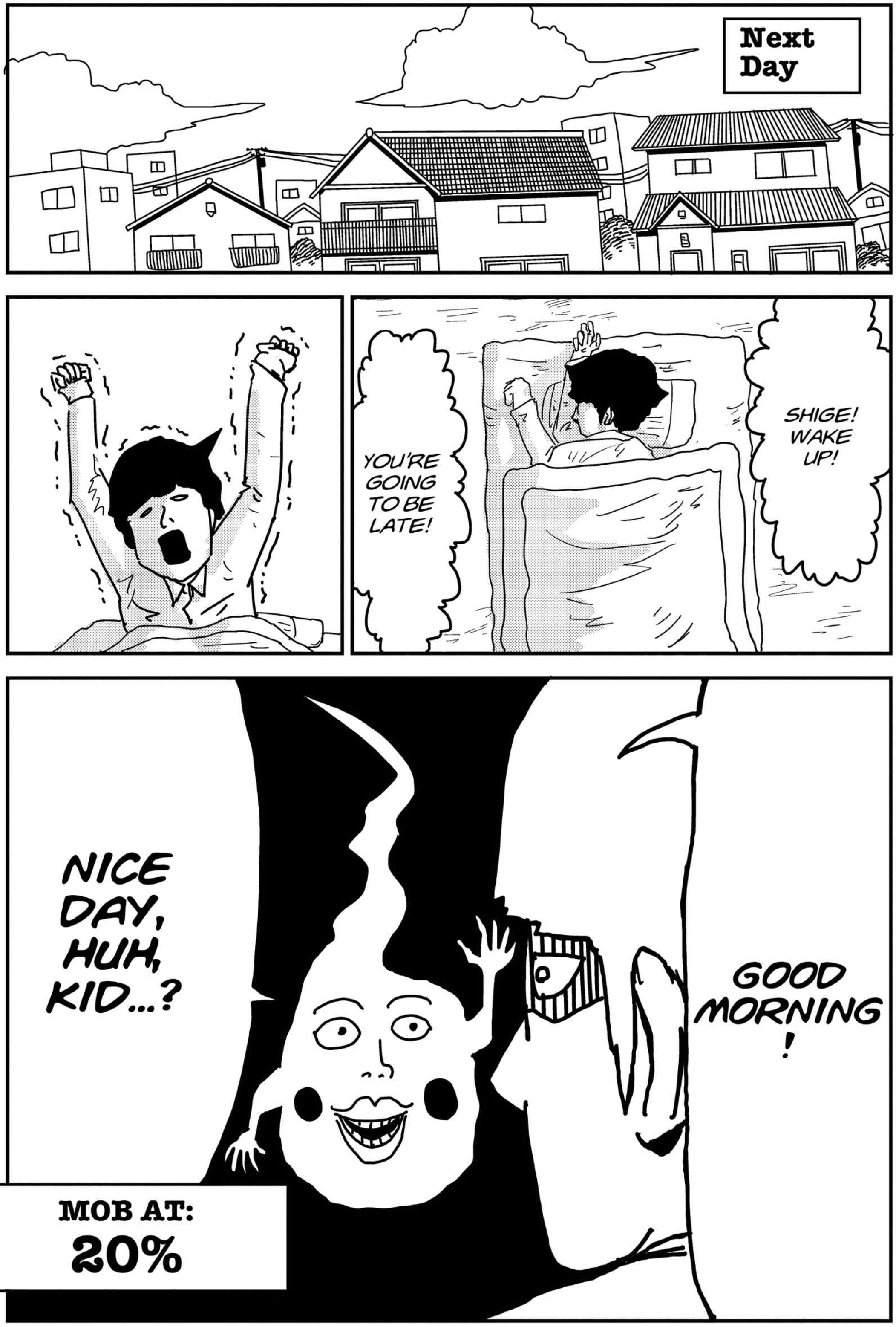



MY BODY FLOATED UP AND STUCK TO THE CEILING ...
LORD DIMPLE IS ASLEEP TOO...!
DID HE AL- WAYS LOOK LIKE THAT ...?


HEY, CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT MY WEIRD DREAM ...?
BUT IT WAS NO GOOD ...
THERE WAS A KID WE WERE TRYING TO GET TO LAUGH ...
H- HUH...? WHAT ARE WE...


...HE MAY BE THE TRUE MESSENGER OF GOD...!
THE BOY...
LET'S FIND HIM...

...HEY! IT WASN'T A DREAM ...!
JUST WHO WAS THAT KID...?


Next Day
YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE!
SHIGE! WAKE UP!
NICE DAY, HUH, KID...?
GOOD MORNING!
MOB AT:
20%

WELL, YESTERDAY'S ENEMY IS TODAY'S ALLY, AS THE SAYING GOES!

SO! SURPRISED TO WAKE UP AND SEE ME HERE...?

...SHIGE!! HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED AND COME HAVE YOUR BREAKFAST!

HEY! SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FAMILY'S CALLING YOU, SHIGE-CHAN.

...

IS THIS A HAND-SHAKE ...?

gripくレ!?

!

FWAK

ARRRGHH!!!

OWWW!!!

HEY! WAIT A SECOND!!

FWAK

FWAK

FWAK

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE A DREAM.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CAUSE A LITTLE PAIN TO *YOURSELF* WHEN YOU THINK THAT...!!

WHAT WAS *THAT* ALL ABOUT ...?

Whak! ドカ Whak!

HOLD ON! STOP, GOD-DAM-MIT !!

OW! OWW! JEEZ! CUT IT OUT!!

ドカ Whak! ドカ Whak!

...THAT IT'S STILL A LONG, LONG WAY TO THE TOP.

AFTER YOU BEAT ME YESTERDAY (AS OPPOSED TO FIVE MINUTES AGO), SHIGE-CHAN... THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED...

OH... SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE ...?

WAIT, WAIT, *WAIT!* HEAR ME OUT, OKAY...?

reach

...FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD! *DIMPLE!* REMEM-BER?! WE HAD A FIGHT TO THE DEATH YESTER-DAY...?

WHO *ARE* YOU...?

SHIGE-CHAN! DON'T BE A DIMWIT ALL YOUR LIFE! LISTEN TO ME...

チュン CHIRP

チュン CHIRP

OH... SO YOU'RE STILL DEAD...?

LOOK, KID! I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LIVING OUT THE REST OF MY DAYS AS A MERE GHOST!

HAVEN'T YOU EVER WANTED ...

...TO BE SOMEONE FAMOUS LIKE THAT... BATHED IN SPOTLIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD...?!

ACTION STARS !!!

PRO BALL PLAYERS !!

IDOLS!

AND IT'S REAL SIMPLE! WHAT I WANT TO BECOME IS THE ULTIMATE BEING IN ALL CREATION!!

IN OTHER WORDS...

EVERYONE HAS A DREAM AT LEAST ONCE...!

...EVEN I, A GHOST, HAVE AN AMBITION!

TO BE THE GREATEST POWER IN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND TO BE AN OBJECT OF DEVOTION FOR ALL HUMANITY!

I DREAM OF THE DAY I BECOME A GOD !!

...A GOD !!!

OF COURSE, YOU DE-STROYED IT IN ONE DAY.

I HAD TO DO A LOT OF RESEARCH BEFORE I FOUNDED (LOL)!

HUH.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK OVER PEOPLE'S MINDS AND FORMED THAT RELIGIOUS GROUP...?

...RATHER THAN MISER-ABLE MIND CONTROL OR GROUP PSYCHO-LOGY...

IN ORDER TO HAVE THE MINDS OF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD HELD IN MY GRASP...

BUT I UNDER-STAND NOW.

IF I DO THAT, EVERYONE WILL FLOCK TO ME *WILLINGLY*!

...WHAT I *REALLY* NEED IS TO SHOW OFF SOME IMPRESSIVE AND MYSTERIOUS POWERS!!

LET'S AIM FOR WORLD DOMINATION *TOGETHER*...!!

AND BY "I DO THAT," I MEAN *YOU DO THAT!* SHIGE-CHAN! JOIN ME!

ブル shiver

カカ rattle rattle

SPARE ME...! I DON'T WANT TO BE WIPED OUT YET...!

ブル shiver ブル shiver ブル

EEEEEEEEEEEK!

AW, C'MON...!

ANY OTHER LAST WORDS...?

WAIT, *WAIT*...! YOU STILL WANT TO EXORCISE ME...?!?

I'LL TALK TO MY MASTER ABOUT IT AFTER CLASS.

tremble tremble tremble tremble tremble

REALLY?

REALLY!

tremble

BUT I PROM-ISE I'LL BE GOOD!!

YOU LITERALLY TRIED TO KILL ME YESTER-DAY.

AND I'VE GOT NO-WHERE ELSE TO GO...

tremble

BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD HERE OR AT MY SCHOOL.

I WON'T WIPE YOU OUT FOR NOW.

I'LL JUST WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT... AND THEN TAKE OVER HIS BODY !!!

KEH!

WHAT AN EASY MARK...!

...RITSU!

OKAY...

BIG BROTHER !

MOM SAYS TO COME DOWN AND EAT ...!

ガチャ chak

HE'S YOUR LI'L BRO ...?

WERE YOU JUST TALKING TO SOME-ONE?

NOPE. NO ONE.

UMM...

?

...

KEH HEH HEH...YOUR BROTHER SEEMS PRETTY BRIGHT, SHIGE-CHAN.

...EVEN *HE* WORRIES ABOUT YOU.

THERE'S NOTH-ING!

ARE YOU OKAY, BIG BROTHER? IF SOME-THING'S WRONG, YOU KNOW YOU CAN TALK TO ME!

I DON'T WANT YOU CALLING ME "SHIGE-CHAN." NEXT TIME YOU DO...

...I EXORCISE YOU.

U-UNDER-STOOD... S-SORRY... SHIGEO.

RITSU!

AND *MY* NAME IS SHIGEO.

...AS I DISCOVERED YESTERDAY, HIS THOUGHT PROCESS IS HARD TO READ.

IF I OFFEND HIM, OR PLAY MY CARDS WRONG, I'M HISTORY...

...I NEED TO WIN HIM OVER GRADUALLY... GENTLY...

I NEED TO LEARN ALL ABOUT SHIGEO'S PERSONAL LIFE...HIS STATUS AT SCHOOL... HIS FRIEND-SHIPS...

ESP

UNDER-STAND HIS CIRCUM-STANCES.

IT WILL BE AN EASY THING FOR ME.

HERE'S THE THING. IF I BECOME THE ONE WHO UNDER-STANDS HIM BETTER THAN ANYONE...

...IN THE END, HE'LL COME TO **DEPEND** ON ME ...!

YES.

...YOU'RE RITSU KAGEYAMA, RIGHT? GRADE 7. CLASS 3?

HEY... KAGE-YAMA.

CAN I TALK TO YOU?

...I'LL TREAT YOU TO A JUICE.

I'M MEZATO, GRADE 8, CLASS 1. I WRITE FOR THE SCHOOL NEWS-PAPER.

IS SOME-THING UP WITH MY BRO-THER ...?

IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE. AND YOU'LL FIND IT INTEREST-ING.

YOU'RE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, BUT YOU'RE NOT REALLY LIKE HIM, ARE YOU ...?

IF IT'S ABOUT SUPER-POW-ERS, ASK HIM.

SO YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AS MY BRO-THER?

...ELSEWHERE IN SEASONING CITY IS SALT MIDDLE SCHOOL'S RIVAL...

MEAN-WHILE...

Black Vinegar Gang Leader: TSUYOSHI EDANO

Black Vinegar Middle School

WHOA, WHOA. SO THIS IS IT? SO *YOU'RE* SUPPOSED TO BE BLACK VINEGAR'S BAD ASSES...?

IT DIDN'T TAKE TOO MANY OF 'EM TO BUST THEIR WAY IN HERE ...!

THESE SALT MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS ARE TOUGH...

DAMN!

...HE'S DONE SOME SERI-OUS TRAIN-ING...

AND *THIS* GUY AIN'T NO JOKE...

KEH HEH HEH! THIS WON'T EVEN BE A WARM UP!

NOMMM!

NO WONDER! AT SALT MIDDLE SCHOOL THEY CALL THAT DUDE "TENGA THE DEMON" ...!

Salt Gang Leader:
TENGA ONIGAWARA

mutter mutter

SHIT!!

WE GOT NO CHOICE ...

...CALL OUR SECRET LEADER !!

GET TERU !!!

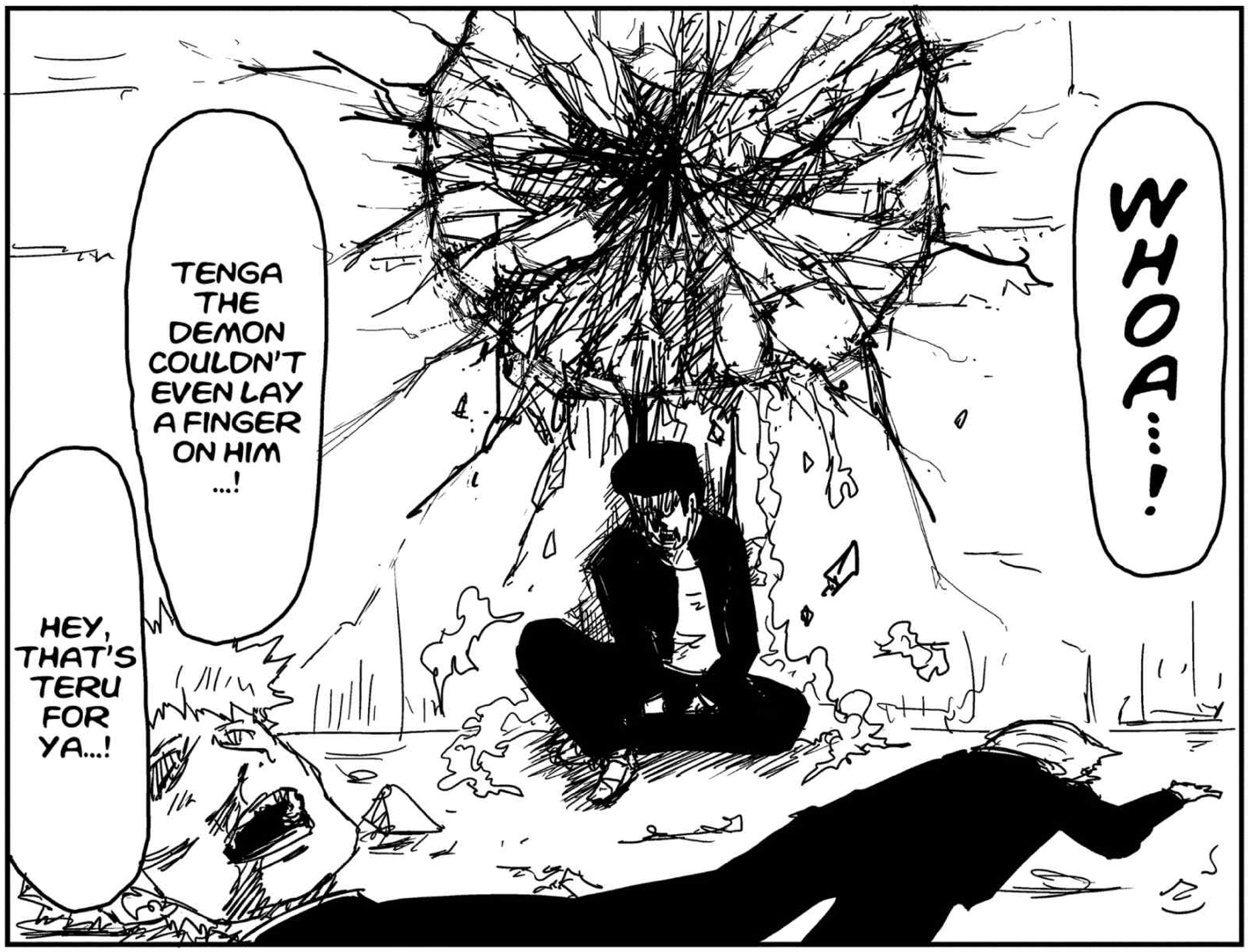
WHO ?

コオ ro

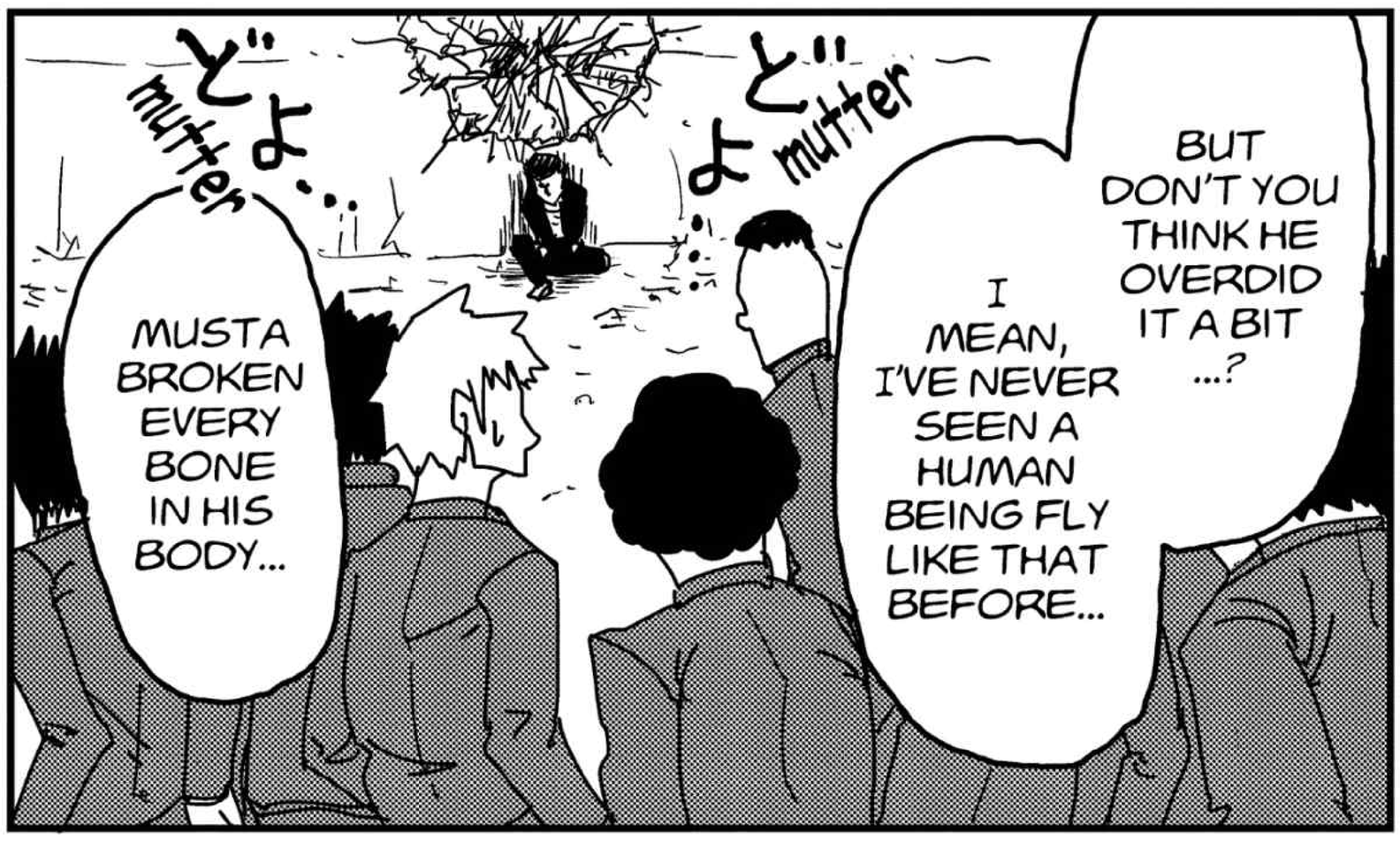
オオオ... aarrrr

mutter

mutter


WHOA...!
TENGA THE DEMON COULDN'T EVEN LAY A FINGER ON HIM ...!
HEY, THAT'S TERU FOR YA...!

HUH. THEY CAME HERE LOOK-ING FOR A FIGHT...


どよ... mutter
どよ mutter
MUSTA BROKEN EVERY BONE IN HIS BODY...
I MEAN, I'VE NEVER SEEN A HUMAN BEING FLY LIKE THAT BEFORE...
BUT DON'T YOU THINK HE OVERDID IT A BIT ...?

...WELL, THEY GOT IT. SEE, WITH MORONS LIKE THESE, YOU NEED TO SHOW 'EM YOU'RE IN A WHOLE DIFFER-ENT LEAGUE.

AND AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, THEY'LL APPROACH LIFE WITH A NEW SENSE OF *PER-SPEC-TIVE* ...!

I FIGURE YOU GUYS, TOO, LEARNED SOMETHING JUST BY WITNESSING THIS.

I'M NOT WRONG, AM I...?

BLACK VINEGAR
8th GRADE STUDENT
TERUKI HANAZAWA

POWER...

PEOPLE...

I'LL USE EVERY-THING I CAN USE...

...BE-CAUSE I'M THE MAIN CHARAC-TER OF THIS WHOLE WIDE WORLD.

ALSO...

...PUTTING THESE DIMWITS IN MY DEBT ISN'T A BAD THING EITHER.

"TERU" FOR SHORT.

...I SEE! SO THIS PHOTO CAPTURED A SPIRIT THAT IS HAUNTING YOU...?

I CAN REMOVE THE EVIL PRESENCE! LET ME HOLD ONTO THIS, AND COME BACK IN TWO HOURS.

WOOO

カチ
klik
カチ
klik
……

UH-OH... ACCIDEN-TALLY ERASED THE CLIENT'S EYE-BROWS.

WHICH ONE'S THE BACK BUTTON ...?

MASTER ...?

HM? IS THAT YOU, MOB? I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW. HOLD ON A MINUTE.

カチ カチ
klak
カチ カチ
klak

USE OF CG SOFTWARE TO EDIT EVIL SPIRITS OUT OF PHOTOS:

REIGEN'S SIGNATURE MOVE

GRAPHIC PURIFI-CATION ...!!!

klik
カチ
カチ カチ
klak klak

WAIT. SPIRIT MEDIUM...? THAT'S SOME B.S., RIGHT?

WHAT IS?

カチッ chak

カチッ chak

カチッ chak

YES. THAT'S MASTER REIGEN. HE'S A SPIRIT MEDIUM.

HIM?

PLUS THAT JOURNALIST GIRL WAS FOLLOWING HIM AROUND, HOPING TO SCORE A NEWSPAPER STORY...

AND NOT JUST BY THIS CON ARTIST... THE TELEPATHY CLUB AT HIS SCHOOL WAS SCHEMING TO ROPE HIM IN TOO.

I DON'T SENSE ANY SPIRITUAL POWER FROM THIS GUY IN THE LEAST...!

SHIGEO'S TOTALLY BEING USED...

HEH HEH HEH...

...I'LL JUST LET HIM BE! I'LL EXPLOIT HIM TO THE FULLEST TOO!

I SHOULD PROBABLY SET HIM STRAIGHT... HELP HIM WISE UP...

...BUT NO.

...DOES EVERYONE TRY TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF SHIGEO...?

...HM?

SHOULD I WIPE HIM OUT?

MASTER... THAT SPIRIT HAS BEEN HANGING AROUND ME SINCE THIS MORNING. WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

IT LOOKS LIKE...

THIS BOGUS BAS-TARD CAN'T EVEN SEE ME!

HUH?

HMM...

HM.

SO HE'S HARMLESS, I'D SAY. LIKE A LADY BUG SITTING ON YOUR SHOULDER. DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH IT, MOB.

EH?!?

shiver

...HE'S TOO WEAK FOR ME TO SEE.

PROGRESS TOWARD MOB'S EXPLOSION:

25%

IF YOU'RE COM-PLETELY HARM-LESS, THEN I WON'T WIPE YOU OUT YET.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR, ISN'T IT?

ASHIKABE CITY
BONUS STORY: ULTIMATE TERROR! GHOST SPOT EPISODE

THERE ARE CERTAIN "GHOST SPOTS" INTER-SPERSED THROUGHOUT THIS WORLD.

...IT MEANS THE "BONE WELL." A FITTING SPOT FOR THIS REQUESTED EXORCISM...!

THE HONEIDO TUNNEL...

...WELL!

LET'S JUST HAVE A LITTLE LOOK-SEE.

EVEN THE MAGAZINES HAVE WRITTEN UP THIS ABODE OF DARKEST HORROR...!

THERE'S NO END TO THE ACCIDENTS AND OMINOUS RUMORS ASSOCI-ATED WITH THIS TUNNEL.

shfff

I'LL CAST OUT EVERY LAST TWERP IN HERE!

step ス…

...I, ARATAKA REIGEN, NEW STAR OF THE PARANORMAL INDUSTRY, WILL SORT THIS OUT IN A JIFFY.

ダダダダダ tmp tmp tmp tmp tmp

fwoom スッ

hush しーん

...YOU THERE, MY DISCIPLE! MOB, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!

WHOOSH!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO COME WITH ME!

HEY! ARE YOU LIS-TENING ...?!

WE'RE ABOUT TO EXORCISE A BIG-ASS ONE, SO COME ON! HEY...!

THIS'LL BE A REAL HASSLE AFTER THE SUN SETS!

Self-Styled Psychic
Arataka Reigen

YOU WERE ACTING LIKE IT WAS GONNA BE EASY, SO I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T NEED MY HELP.

B-BUT... WELL, YES, IT IS AN EASY ONE! THAT'S JUST THE POINT!! A SAFE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FOR AN INEXPERIENCED PERSON LIKE YOU!!!

Reigen's Protégé

Shigeo Kageyama

(Grade 8)

FROM WAY OUT HERE, I CAN SENSE THAT A POWERFUL SPIRIT CRACKLING WITH OCCULT ENERGY LIES DEEP INSIDE IT!

...!

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF COURAGE, MASTER! YOU CALL IT SAFE...BUT EVEN I CAN SEE THAT TUNNEL LOOKS PRETTY DANGEROUS!

I MEAN, IF AN ORDINARY PERSON ANGERED THE SPIRIT THAT'S IN THERE...

...BUT THIS TIME IT'S REAL.

STUFF YOU HEAR ABOUT GHOST SPOTS IS OFTEN BULL...

...THEY'D BE WALKING AWAY FROM IT.

I DON'T THINK...

...ER, YES. THAT MUCH IS CLEAR.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE TO EXOR-CISE IT, SEE...?

...

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO.

I'll take point.

I'll take point!

You walk to my right and cover my six.

That's your three.

step step スタスタ

SEE MY PREVI-OUS RE-MARK.

step スタ

I FOR-GOT FLASH-LIGHTS.

スタ

...AND THE DEEPER WE GO, THE DARKER IT GETS.

step スタ step スタ

WELL, WE JUST WALKED OUT OF THE SUN-SHINE.

...THERE'S A CHILL IN HERE.

clop clop ヒタ ヒタ ヒタ...

...SO MY SENSES ARE A BIT OFF. UM, HOW ABOUT YOU? CAN YOU SMELL SOME-THING...?

OH, *THAT.* MM-HMM. MAYBE? A LITTLE BIT...? I'VE GOT A STUFFY NOSE TODAY...

step スタ step スタ

rustle カサ rustle カサカ

NO, I MEAN SPIRITUAL ENERGY.

HM? ER, YES. IT'S DAMP. VERY DAMP.

step スタ

MAS-TER... CAN YOU NOT FEEL SOME-THING...?

step スタ rustle カサ rustle rustle rustle カサカサカサ

clop clop ヒタ ヒタ

I COUNT 12...14, 15... NO, EVEN MORE OF THEM NEARBY...

...SOME-THING FAR BEYOND NORMAL PERCEP-TION.

IT'S NOT SOME-THING YOU SMELL, MASTER ...

IT'S...

チッ
chitter
チッ
chitter
チッ
chitter

YES...

...WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY EVIL SPIRITS.

THEY'RE ABOUT TO ATTACK.

YOU HANDLE THE SMALL FRY, MOB...!

BRING IT ON!

ステップ
step

ドゴゴゴゴ
ドゴゴゴゴ
ドゴゴゴゴ

キュ

スタ Step

...OKAY, IT'S QUIET. THEY MUST ALL BE GONE NOW.

ANOTHER EASY VICTORY!

スタ Step

SOMETHING'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...!!!

I HIT SOME-THING ...!!!

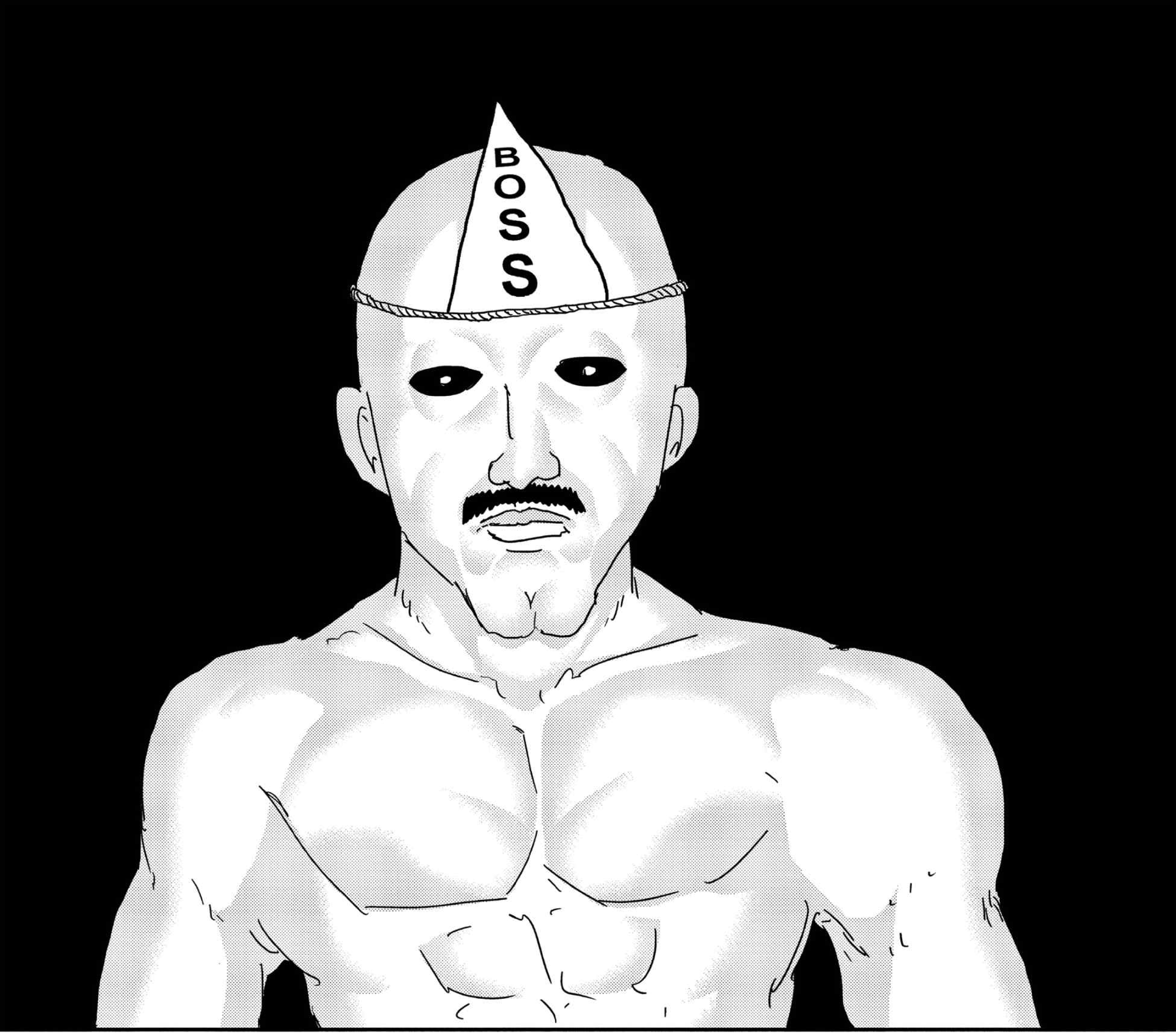
WHO'S THERE ...?!

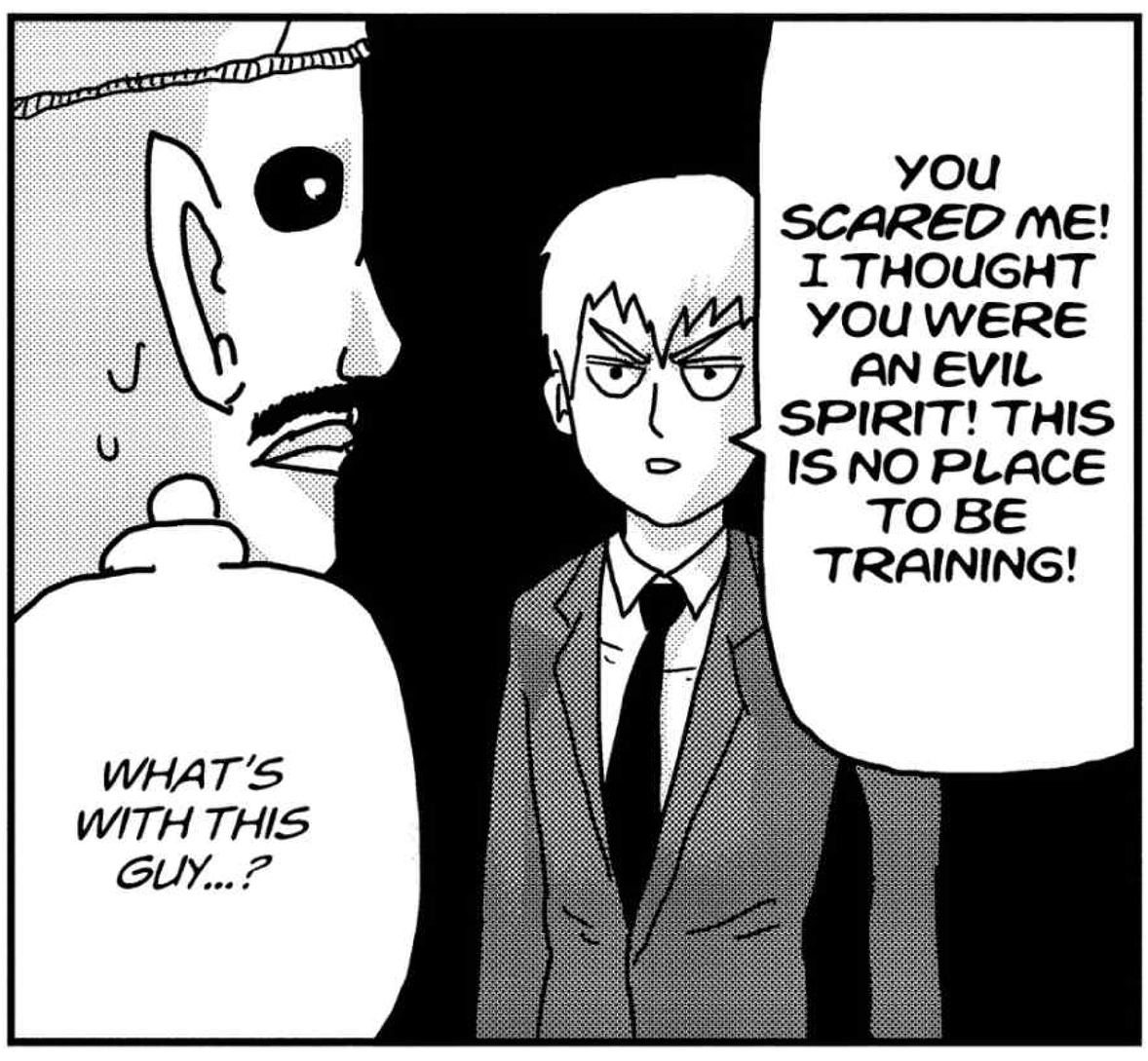
REVEAL YOUR-SELF, O EVIL SPIRIT ...!!

10/11(日)

17:55

FLICK!


BOSS


YOU SCARED ME! I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN EVIL SPIRIT! THIS IS NO PLACE TO BE TRAINING!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?

...
WHEW
WHAT THE...IT'S A PRO WRESTLING HEEL!

SORT OF ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE. BEST WATCH YOURSELF.

ヴヴヴwwooosh

ウウ

ギャ

ギャwhaM

whaM

OH, BY THE WAY, MASTER, I'M SENSING THAT THE BOSS OF THESE EVIL SPIRITS SEEMS TO BE BACK THERE SOMEWHERE.

BOSS

ニヤリgrin

ズズズZZZ

ga

ドドド

...WELL, WE WERE RIDING SINGLE FILE, SO YOU KIND OF GET THE PICTURE ...!!

NOW THIS TUNNEL IS OUR ETERNAL TERRI-TORY! AND NO ONE HERE GETS OUT ALIVE!!

BOSS

HEED MY WORDS, POSER MORTAL! IN LIFE I RAN A BIKER GANG THAT RODE THROUGH THIS TUNNEL! HALFWAY THROUGH, THE GUY AT THE FRONT DROVE ONTO A BANANA PEEL AND CRASHED...

SS

YOU TOO...

...SHALL BECOME AS US!!!

roaarrrr

CIGARETTE BURN HAZING POLTERGEIST !!

beep!

HAHH !!

...HAD NO EFFECT ...!!

POLTERGEIST EFFECTS: SPIRITUAL PHENOMENA SUCH AS THE MOVEMENT OF OBJECTS AT WILL, PORTALS OPENING IN TV SETS, CIGARETTE BURN HAZING, ETC.

JUST WHO ARE YOU ...?!

S

...M-MY ATTACK ...

W-WHAT ...?!

BOSS

D-DID I MISTAKE HIM FOR A PHONY...JUST BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE ONE...?

WHERE DID SOMEONE LIKE HIM GET SUCH--

krakkle

krakkle

krakkle

SURROUNDING YOU...AN IMPOSSIBLY POWERFUL BARRIER!!

...TO BE LAID TO REST... FOR GOOD!!

THE MOMENT YOU STOOD AGAINST PHENOMENAL SPIRIT MEDIUM ARATAKA REIGEN, THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE RESULT...

rrmb rrmb rrmb rrmb rrmb rrmb

WHATEVER MISTAKE YOU MADE...IT'S TOO LATE TO TAKE IT BACK.

WAIT-- WHAT ...?!

POW!

THROWING A PUNCH WITH A SALT-ENCRUSTED FIST: REIGEN'S SIGNATURE MOVE

SALT HEAP PUNCH !!!

SHWOOPWOOP

...?!?

YAAAAAA!!!

BOSS

EH ...?

THAT DIDN'T DO ANY-THING...

BUT IT'S NOT THIS MAN! SOMEONE ELSE HERE--

I... I'M BEING EXTIN-GUISHED !!

VVVWWOOOOSSHHH

GYAAAAA...!

...THE S-SAME POWER I FELT IN HIS BARRIER... IT'S RETURNED ...!

BEGONE, SPIRIT OF DARK-NESS. GO BACK TO THE OZONE LAYER...

"OZONE LAYER"? WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?

HIS NAME IS SHIGEO KAGEYAMA, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "MOB." HE IS ARATAKA REIGEN'S DISCIPLE...

BUT, MASTER... WHY DIDN'T YOU DO ANYTHING ...?

HMPH! I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I...?

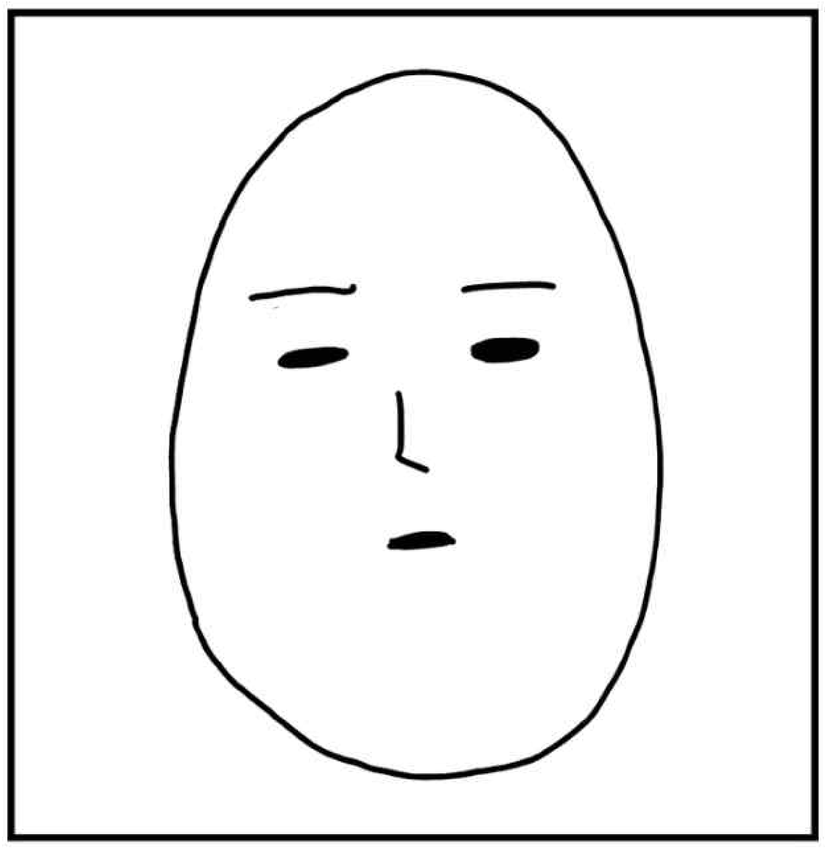
...AND A TRUE SUPER-HUMAN.

...THE SMALL FRY ARE FOR YOU TO HANDLE.

...OH.

HE IS THE PROTAGONIST OF THIS STORY.

CONTINUED IN VOL. 2
OF *MOB PSYCHO 100*!



ONE

This collected edition volume is a reality thanks to the support of all my readers. Thank you!

Even a superhuman goes through the anxieties of adolescence, and maybe they deal with stress building up too—and so this manga was born. What will Mob's future bring . . . ? I hope you all keep reading to find out!

president and publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

editor
CARL GUSTAV HORN

designer
SARAH TERRY

digital art technician
CHRIS HORN

English-language version produced by Dark Horse Comics

MOB PSYCHO 100

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SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE . . .

You sense it, somehow. You suspect this story doesn't really go the way it should. You're suspicious! But a smooth talker like Reigen would know what to say at this point. *"Just flip the book around and start reading it the other way instead."* Aha! So this was really the last page of the book. You're saved! Thank you, Reigen-sensei! *"Now, about my fee . . . "*

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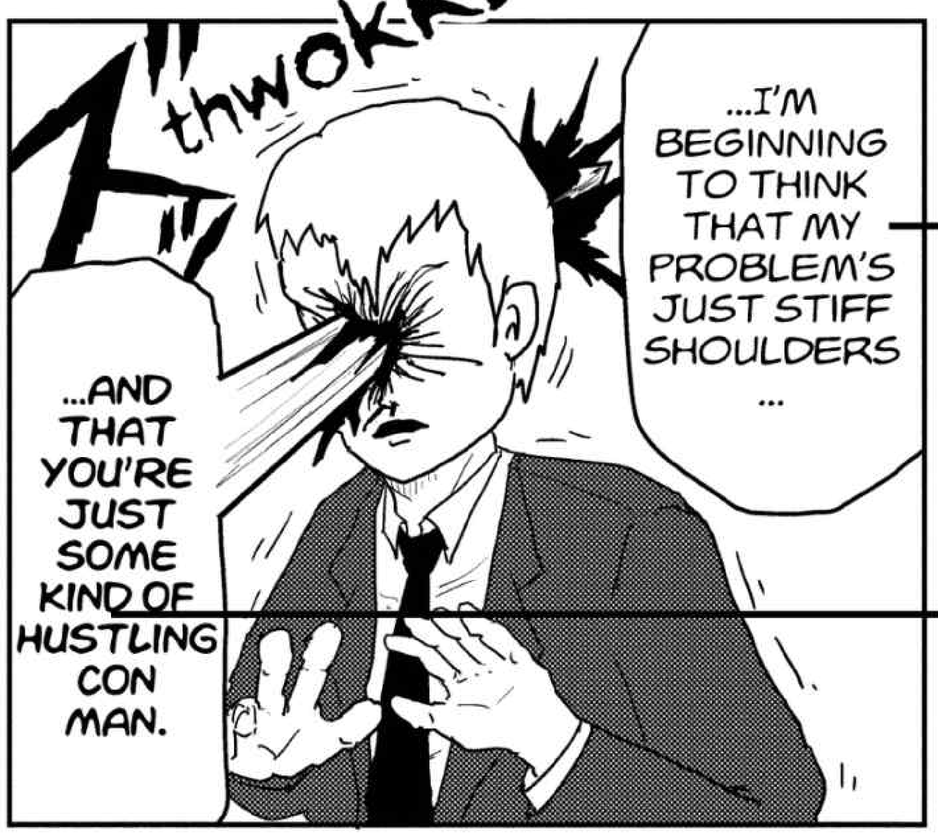

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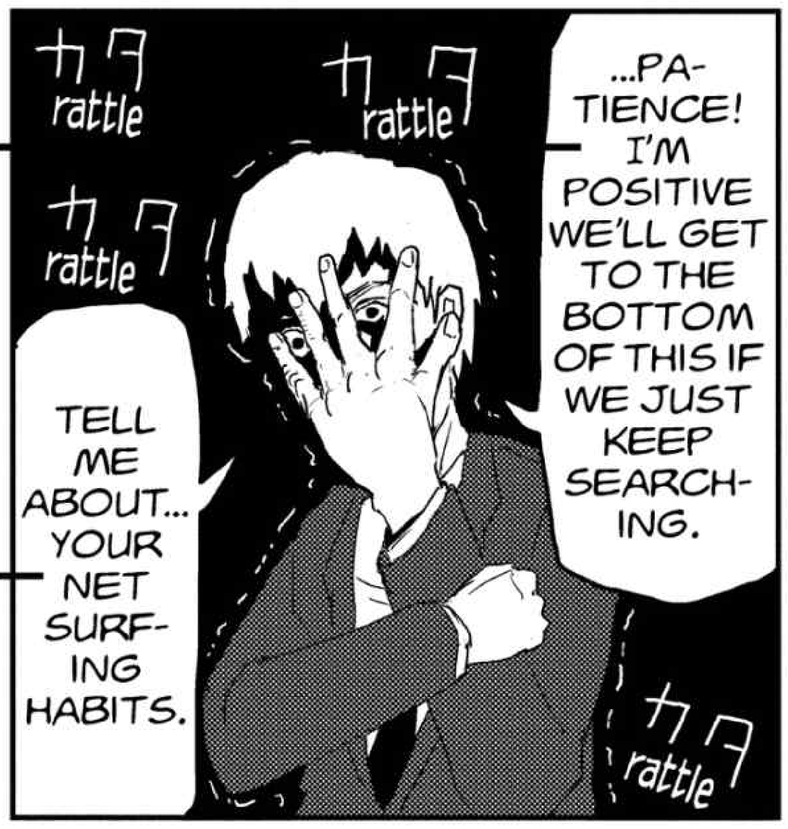

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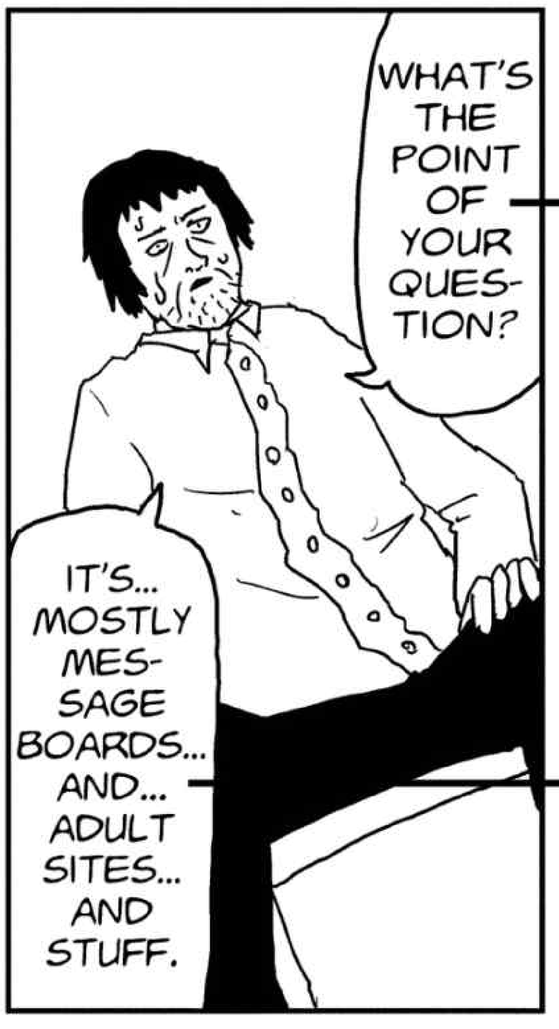

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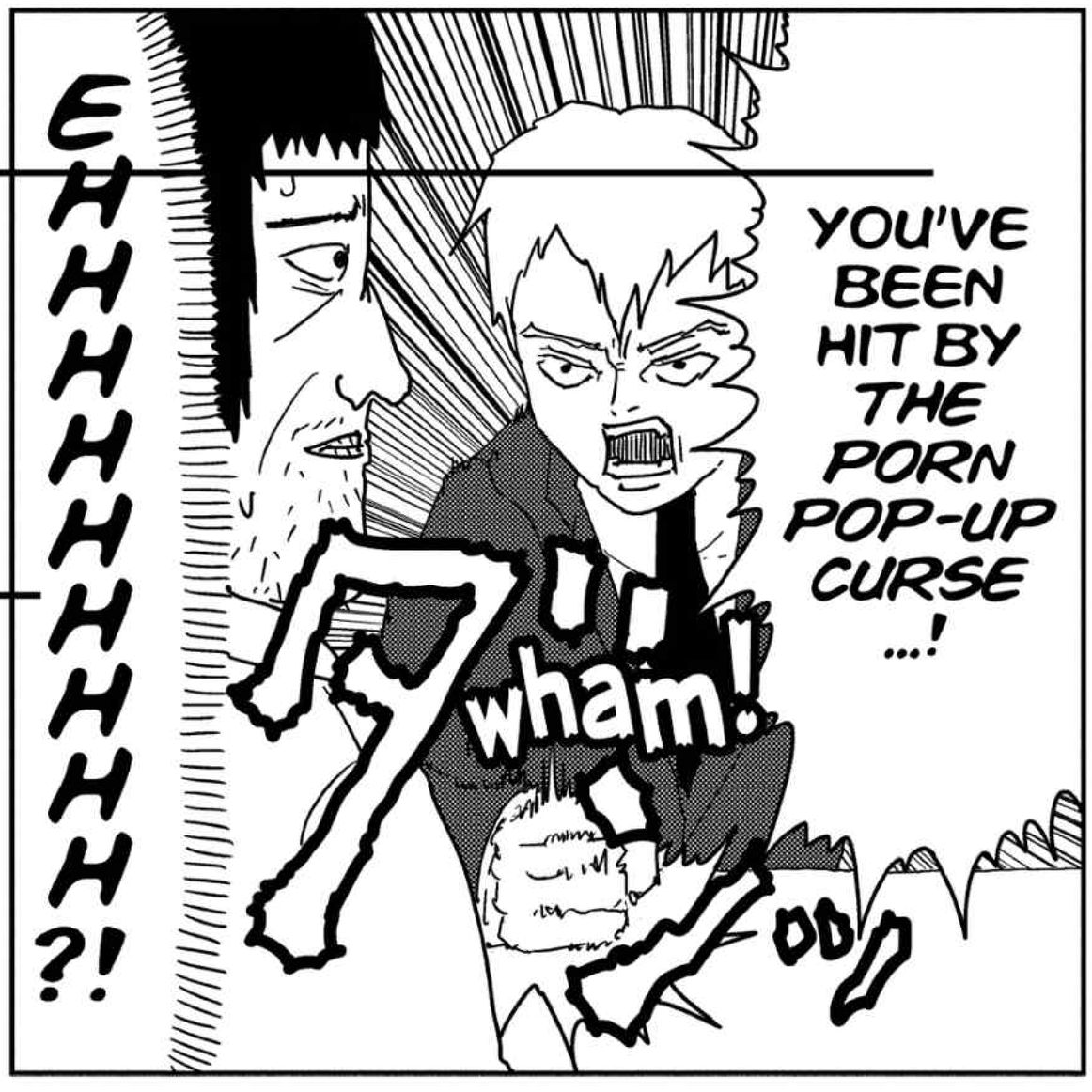
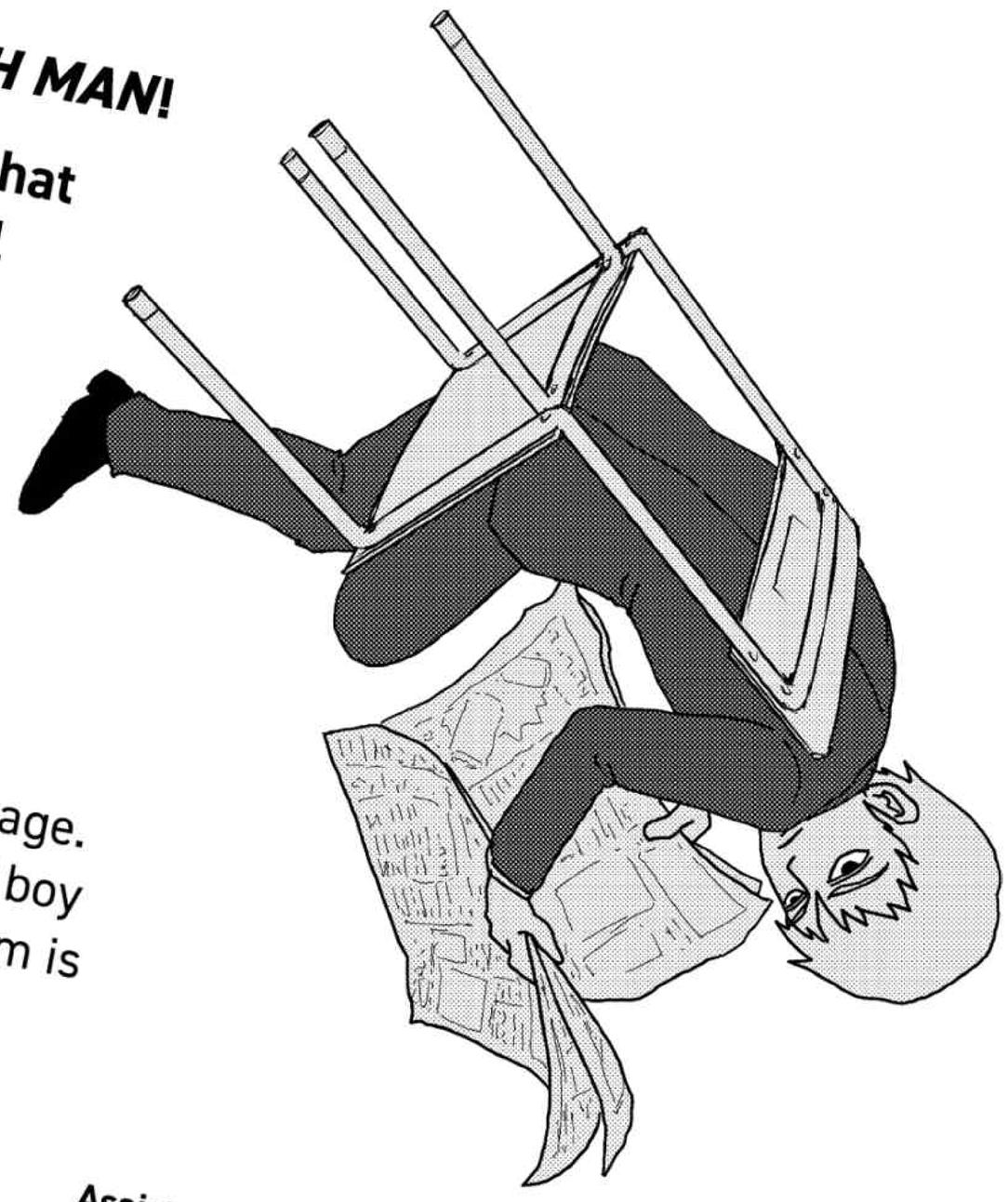


10

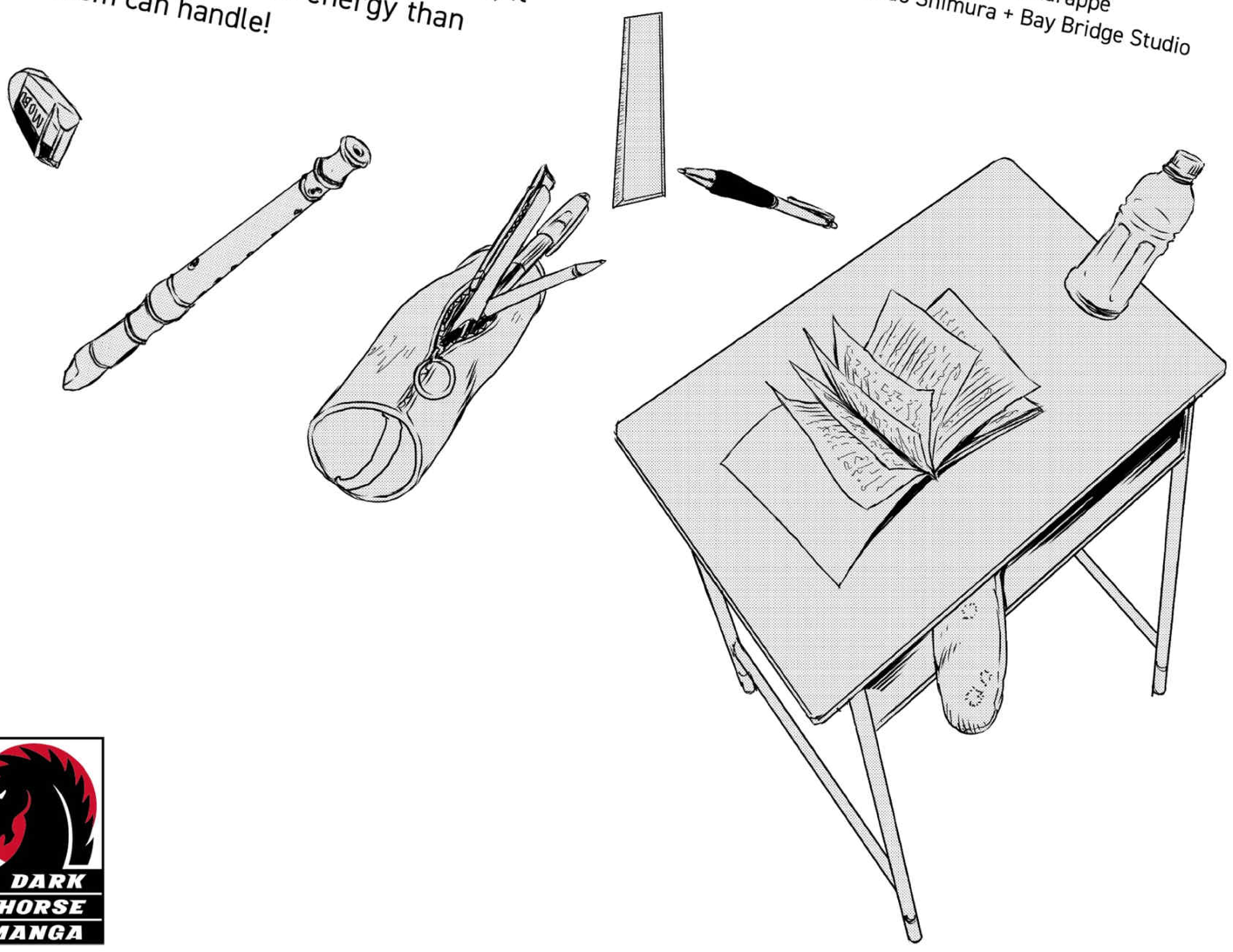
FROM THE CREATOR OF *ONE-PUNCH MAN*!

The original *Mob Psycho 100* manga that inspired the anime from Crunchyroll and Funimation and the live-action series from Netflix!!!

Do you need an exorcist who works cheap? Reigen's your guy! What's his secret to busting ghosts while keeping prices low? Well, first, he's a fraud, and second, he pays the guy who's got the real psychic power—his student assistant Shigeo—less than minimum wage. Shigeo, known as "MOB," is an awkward but kind boy whose urge to help others and get along with them is bound up with the mental safety locks he's placed on his own emotions. Reigen knows he needs to exploit Shigeo to stay in business, yet for better or worse he's also his mentor and counselor. And he also knows whenever the normally repressed kid's emotions reach level 100, it may unleash more psychic energy than either of them can handle!



Assistants: Koya, Sabu Musha, Otsu, Kurappe
Original Designer: Yasuo Shimura + Bay Bridge Studio



DARK HORSE MANGA